

## CHILD CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS AND INSPECTIONS

If you are interested in getting your child car seat installed or inspected you should contact the **California Highway Patrol**. The closest office is in Westminster at:

California Highway Patrol-Westminster  
13200 Golden West Street  
Westminster, CA 92683  
Hours: Call for appointment  
Phone: (714) 892-4426

**Appointments must be made in advance.** Walk-ins will not be accepted.

In addition, Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) Community Education holds classes once a month, free of charge. The number to call and register is (714) 532-8887. They also have one on one classes available for a \$50 fee.

### California Law

- State law says that children must ride in a child restraint until they are 6 years old or 60 pounds. In addition, the law requires that children over 6 years or 60 pounds must ride in a properly fitted seat belt until they are 16 years old. To achieve a proper fit, most children need to ride in a booster seat after they outgrow car seats. Make sure the lap belt fits low over the hips and the shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest. Use of booster seats requires BOTH a lap and shoulder belt.
- As of January 2005, children must ride in the back seat until they are at least 6 years old or weigh 60 pounds.
- "Kaitlyn's Law" makes it illegal to leave a child, under 7 years old, alone in a vehicle without the supervision of someone at least 12 years old.

### Recommendations

- Always read and follow the directions that come with the car seat.
- Read your car owner's manual. It will describe how your seat belts lock, if you need to use a locking clip to put in your car seat, and if you can use a tether strap to reduce forward head movement in a crash.

- All seats have height and weight limits. Make sure you buy a seat that is appropriate for your child's height, weight, and physical needs.
- If your car seat is over 6 years old or has been in a crash, it may not be safe! Buy a new one.
- Put children under 13 in the back seat. It is the safest place for any child to ride.
- Get a tight fit! Car seats should move no more than one inch from side to side or toward the front of the car.
- Children should face the rear of the car until age 2, or until they reach the maximum height and weight of their seat.
- NEVER put an infant facing the rear of the car in the front seat with an active airbag.
- Harness straps should be as snug as possible and the harness clip should be placed at armpit level.
- Young infants need to ride reclined to keep their airway open. The most a rear facing car seat should be reclined is 45 degrees.