

## **Child Passenger Safety Fact Sheet Seat Belts**

**Georgia's child passenger safety law: All children under age 6 must be properly secured in a federally approved child safety seat or booster seat and placed in the back seat.**

### **SEAT BELT FIT TEST**

Move children from a booster seat to a seat belt when they are able to pass this quick seat belt fit test:

1. When your child sits all the way back on the vehicle seat and is sitting upright, do their knees bend at the front edge of the seat? If not keep the child in a booster seat.
2. Buckle the child in the lap and shoulder seat belt. Does the shoulder belt fit over the collar bone and away from the neck? If no, keep the child in a booster seat.
3. When seated and buckled up with the lap and shoulder belt, do the child's feet easily touch the floor? If no, return to a booster seat.
4. Never allow children to share seat belts. One belt one passenger.

### **IMPORTANT TIPS**

- ✓ **NEVER** leave a child unattended for any reason, for any length of time in the vehicle.
- ✓ **NEVER** place the shoulder belt behind the child's back. This could cause serious injuries in the event of a car crash.
- ✓ Children 13 and under are safest in the back seat away from the front passenger air bag. Even if your vehicle has "Smart Air Bags", the back seat remains the safest place for children!
- ✓ Teach children how to correctly use the seat belt in the back seat in every vehicle the child rides in. Especially if your child rides in friends or other family members vehicles.

### **Child Passenger Safety Links:**

Safe Kids Worldwide [www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

American Academy of Pediatrics [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

If you have questions about child passenger safety, contact Janet Weisman, Injury Prevention Coordinator at 404-294-3700 or [jeweisman@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jeweisman@dhr.state.ga.us)

