

## City Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

City, Citation	CRS Required?		General CRS Requirements				Seat belt required for children younger than 13 who are not in a CRS?	Exceptions to CRS and seat belt requirements for ridesharing or taxis
	Ridesharing*	Taxis*	Seating position specifications	Ages, weights, and heights for which any CRS is required	Penalties for violations	Means of enhancing compliance		
<b>Chicago,</b> §§ 2-84-195, 2-84-196, 7-36-115, 9-76-180	Not indicated.	Not indicated.	None indicated.	Not indicated.	\$25 fine assigned to driver for child seat belt violations.	People or businesses who sell CRS must post a referral document which assists customers in finding a CRS technician. Certain police officers are required to complete CRS trainings developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). <sup>1</sup>	Yes, required for all front seat passengers.	None indicated.
<b>Colorado Springs,</b> § 10.23.117 <sup>2</sup>	Yes, parent/guardian are responsible if present in vehicle, otherwise driver is responsible.	No	Yes, rear- facing and forward- facing specified. <sup>3</sup>	Applies to children younger than 8.	No specific fine specified at the city level. State fine is \$81 for CRS or child seat belt violations.	CRS fine waived if violator purchases a CRS after violation and provides proof to the court.	Yes	CRS and child seat belt requirements exempt for-hire vehicles, which include taxis.
<b>Denver,</b> § 54-238 <sup>4</sup>	Yes, parent/guardian are responsible if present in vehicle, otherwise driver is responsible.	No	Yes, rear- facing and forward- facing specified. <sup>5</sup>	Applies to children younger than 8.	No specific fine specified at the city level. State fine is \$81 for CRS or child seat belt violations.	None indicated.	Yes	CRS and child seat belt requirements exempt for-hire vehicles, which include taxis.

<sup>1</sup> Chicago requires at least two police officers in each district to complete NHTSA's 32-hour National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Course to learn more about how to properly use and install CRS. Chicago also requires probationary police officers to complete NHTSA's 4-hour Law Enforcement Child Passenger Safety Course to learn more about the importance and benefits of using CRS.

<sup>2</sup> The CRS ordinance found for Colorado Springs is a near-exact duplicate of Colorado's state CRS law, C.R.S.A. § 42-4-236.

<sup>3</sup> Colorado Springs law specifies that children younger than 1 and weighing less than 20 pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child safety seat. Children aged 1-3 and weighing 20-39 pounds must be restrained in either a rear-facing or a forward-facing child safety seat.

<sup>4</sup> The CRS ordinance found for Denver is a near-exact duplicate of Colorado's state CRS law, C.R.S.A. § 42-4-236.

<sup>5</sup> Denver law specifies that children younger than 1 and weighing less than 20 pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child safety seat. Children aged 1-3 and weighing 20-39 pounds must be restrained in either a rear-facing or a forward-facing child safety seat.

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<b>District of Columbia,</b> §§ 50-1701, 50-1702, 50-1703, 50-1704, 50-1706, 50-1708, 50-2206.18	Yes, driver responsible.	No	Yes, rear-facing specified, exemptions when no seat belts are available. <sup>6</sup>	Applies to children younger than 8.	\$25-150 fine and 2 points assigned to license for CRS or child seat belt violations, violators may also be required to attend a CRS safety class. Driving while impaired carries a longer mandatory prison sentence if children are not properly secured. <sup>7</sup>	Rental car companies are required to provide educational information about CRS laws to customers. Fines from CRS violations are used to provide CRS fitting stations, CRS training, and distribution of CRS to low-income families. CRS fine waived if violator purchases a CRS after violation and provides proof to the court.	Yes	CRS and child seat belt requirements exempt taxis.
<b>Kansas City,</b> §§ 70-856, 70-857, 76-32	Yes, driver responsible.	No	Yes, exemptions when no seat belts or only lap belts are available. <sup>8</sup>	Applies to all children under 4 and all children who weigh less than 40 pounds. Also applies to children under 8 who are shorter than 57" and weigh less than 80 pounds.	\$50 maximum fine for CRS and child seat belt violations.	CRS fine waived if violator purchases a CRS after violation and provides proof to the court.	Yes	CRS and child seat belt requirements exempt public carriers for-hire, which include taxis.
<b>Louisville,</b> §§ 115.244, 115.251, 115.262	Not indicated.	Yes, driver responsible.	None indicated.	Applies to child taxi passengers who are shorter than 41".	None indicated.	Taxis must post signage informing riders of CRS and seat belt requirements.	Yes, required for all taxi passengers.	None indicated.

<sup>6</sup> D.C. law requires that children weighing less than 40 pounds or shorter than 40", and younger than 2 be secured in a rear-facing CRS. D.C. law also specifies that booster seats may only be used with a combination lap and shoulder belt. D.C. permits parents to transport their child without securing them if there are more children younger than 16 than there are available seating positions in the vehicle.

<sup>7</sup> D.C. provides a \$75 fine for first-time CRS violations, but allows first-time violators to attend a CRS safety class to waive their fine (violators must pay a \$25 fee to attend the class). D.C. provides a \$75 fine for second-time CRS violations and requires second-time violators to attend a CRS safety class and pay a \$25 class fee. D.C. law provides a \$125 fine for third-time CRS violations, and provides a \$150 fine for fourth-time or subsequent violations. If a driver is found guilty of impaired driving with minors in the vehicle, D.C. law provides a \$500-1000 fine for each minor present in the vehicle, a minimum of 5 days imprisonment for each properly restrained child, and a minimum of 10 days imprisonment for each improperly restrained child.

<sup>8</sup> Kansas law allows children who would otherwise be required to be secured in a booster seat to be secured in a rear seat with only a lap belt if there are no combination lap and shoulder belts available in the rear seats. Kansas law also specifies that, in cases where children all belonging to the same immediate family are being transported, if there are more children than available seats, excess children may be unsecured while seated in a rear seat of the vehicle.

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<b>Memphis,</b> § 11-36	Yes, parent/guardian are responsible if present in vehicle, otherwise driver is responsible.	No	Yes, rear- facing and forward- facing specified. <sup>9</sup>	Applies to all children younger than 4, and children aged 4– 8 who are shorter than 60”.	\$50 maximum fine for CRS and child seat belt violations which are considered misdemeanors.	Seat belt violation fines are used to purchase CRS for low-income families. Rental car companies are required to provide CRS for rent “at a reasonable rate.” CRS technicians who install or inspect a CRS without a fee are not liable for damages.	Yes	CRS and child seat belt requirements exempt vehicles used for public livery conveyance, which include taxis.
<b>New Orleans,</b> §§ 154-177, 154-1255	Yes, driver responsible.	No	Yes, front seat restrictions, exemptions when no seat belts are available. <sup>10</sup>	Applies to children younger than 5.	\$50 fine for CRS and child seat belt violations.	None indicated.	Yes, required for children age 3-5 who are not in a CRS.	CRS and child seat belt requirements exempt taxis.
<b>Oklahoma City,</b> §§ 1-6, 32-533, 32-534	Yes, driver responsible.	No	Yes, exemptions when only lap belts are available. <sup>11</sup>	Applies to children younger than 6.	\$500 maximum fine for CRS or child seat belt violations. CRS and child seat belt violations – primary enforcement.	None indicated.	Yes	CRS and child seat belt requirements exempt taxis.

<sup>9</sup> Memphis law requires children younger than 1 or weighing 20 pounds or less to be secured in a rear-facing CRS in a rear seat. Memphis law also specifies that children who are age 1-3 and who weigh more than 20 pounds must be secured in forward-facing CRS in a rear seat. Memphis law also describes that children who are age 4-8 and who are shorter than 60” must be secured in a booster seat in a rear seat.

<sup>10</sup> New Orleans law specifies that children age 3-5 may be secured using a seat belt in a rear seat. If there are no rear seats available, the child may be secured using a CRS in a front seat. New Orleans law also describes that if there are more children than available seating positions, excess children may be unsecured in the rear seat.

<sup>11</sup> Oklahoma City law specifies that a child otherwise required to be secured in a CRS may be secured using only a lap belt in a rear seat if the child weighs more than 40 pounds and the rear seat of the vehicle only has lap belts available.

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<b>Raleigh,</b> §§ 12-2022, 12-2028	Yes, driver responsible.	Yes, driver responsible.	Yes, front seat restrictions, exemptions when only lap belts are available. <sup>12</sup>	Applies to child taxi or ridesharing passengers who are younger than 9. Applies to all other child passengers who are younger than 8 and weighing less than 80 pounds.	Taxi licenses may be revoked for CRS or child seat belt violations.	None indicated.	Yes	None indicated.
<b>Seattle,</b> §§ 6.310.110, 11.31.120, 11.58.195	Yes, driver responsible.	Yes, driver responsible.	Yes, front seat restrictions, exemptions when only lap belts are available. <sup>13</sup>	Applies to children younger than 8 and shorter than 57”.	\$250 maximum fine for CRS or child seat belt violations.	CRS fine waived if violator purchases a CRS and provides proof to the court within 7 days of violation.	Yes	None indicated.
<b>Tulsa,</b> §§ 740, 741	Yes, driver responsible.	No	Yes, rear- facing specified. <sup>14</sup>	Applies to children younger than 8 and 57” or shorter.	\$50 fine for CRS violations. \$50 fine for child seat belt violations when child is age 8 or is younger than 8 and taller than 57”. \$20 fine for child seat belt violations when child is a front seat passenger.	CRS fine reduced to \$15 if violator purchases a CRS after violation and provides proof to the court. CRS technicians who install or inspect a CRS without a fee are not liable for damages.	Yes, required for all front seat passengers and children age 8 or younger than 8 and taller than 57”.	CRS requirement exempts taxis. Child seat belt requirement for children age 8 or younger than 8 and taller than 57” exempts taxis.

\* In cases where the CRS requirements applied to both ridesharing and taxis, these requirements were identical except where otherwise indicated.

<sup>12</sup> Raleigh taxi ordinances cite North Carolina’s state CRS law, N.C.G.S.A. § 20-137.1, which specifies that, if no combination lap and shoulder belts are available, child passengers who weigh more than 40 pounds may be secured with only a lap belt. Raleigh law also cites the North Carolina requirement that any child younger than 5 and weighing less than 40 pounds must be secured in a CRS in a rear seat, unless the CRS is designed to be used with airbags.

<sup>13</sup> Seattle law requires passengers younger than 13 to be seated in a rear seat whenever possible. Seattle law also allows children weighing more than 40 pounds to be secured by only a lap belt if there is only a lap belt available.

<sup>14</sup> Tulsa law requires children younger than 2 to be secured in a rear-facing CRS until the child exceeds the weight or height limits established by the CRS manufacturer.