Car Seat Distribution Program

We have car seats to give you ONLY because we have agreed to educate all recipients in proper use of the car seat. NO car seat can be given to those who do not have time for the education by a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician.

Generally we prefer to show you how to install the seat in a vehicle that you will use or borrow most often. If you don’t own a vehicle, please discuss this with us when you make your appointment.

We will provide only one seat per child, no matter how many vehicles the child rides in. We will be happy to teach you or others to install the seat in more than one vehicle.

The child should be present, except in the case of an expectant parent. If expecting, please schedule your appointment in the third trimester, or about 6-8 weeks before your due date.

If we find that your child’s seat is unsafe, we may ask you to give it to us to destroy so that others may not inadvertently use it for their child.

Your child’s safety seat MAY NOT BE SAFE if:

- it has been in a crash
- it has missing parts
- it has no labels or stickers
- it is on a recall list
- it is over 6 years old
- it is not used properly

You can call the manufacturer for instructions and recalls. You will need the model number and date of manufacture (found on a sticker on the car seat).

Recall information can also be found at the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 or www.nhtsa.dot.gov, by calling the manufacturer listed on the car seat label, and/or on the manufacturer’s web site.

New York State Laws and other car seat information can be found at www.safeny.ny.gov

North Country Child Safety Coalition

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IS YOUR CHILD’S CAR SEAT INSTALLED CORRECTLY?

Although 96% of parents believe that they are using their child’s car seat correctly, local inspections show that 9 out of 10 seats have mistakes that can put the child at greater risk of injury or death.

Fitting Stations
Our county now has locations where parents can go to find out if their children are properly restrained. These sites, called fitting stations, are staffed by trained individuals who are certified by National Safe Kids. These Certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians can assist parents in the selection, use, and installation of the proper restraints for their child.

Many services are available by appointment only. Most sites have very limited hours and staffing, so it may take a few weeks to schedule your seat checkup.

At your appointment, plan to spend about one hour per child, whether or not the child is currently in a car seat. A car seat check involves active participation, so be prepared to spend time learning how to install your child’s car seat.

If we find that your child’s car seat is not safe, most fitting stations have some replacement seats available. If we cannot provide an appropriate seat, we will inform you of your options. If you receive a car seat from our programs, you must agree to use and install it according to the manufacturer’s directions.

What to Bring to Your Appointment

Bring the car seat instructions and vehicle owner’s manual. If you do not have them, you may be able to get a copy on-line, or by calling the manufacturer or dealer. Please read them ahead of time.

We ask that you install your car seat in the vehicle that you will use most often to transport your child. This will save time at your appointment.

ALSO BRING:

- Your child — so that we can adjust the seat to fit properly. If you are an expectant parent, we can use dolls to demonstrate proper harnessing.
- Please bring the child’s current height and weight, if you have them.
- Another adult with you, if possible, to watch the child while you learn to install the seat.
- Proof of income, such as a WIC card or Social Services ID, (if applying for a seat from the low-income program).
- Diapers and baby supplies, if needed.

Car seats checked by appointment. Please call ahead to ensure service, as all sites have limited staffing or hours.