

BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

POLICY NO.: 7.1	SUBJECT: VEHICLE RESTRAINT SYSTEMS POLICY
ORC: 4511.81 OAC: 5101:2-7-15	EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/16/2003
	REVISION DATE: 3/22/2005
	REVIEW DATE: 3/28/2006, 1/08

PURPOSE:

This policy ensures that laws regarding use of vehicle restraint systems are followed.

1. All employees and foster parents are required to properly use a safety vehicle restraint system (car seat) when transporting any person who is under four years of age, or who weighs less than forty pounds.
2. A person less than one year of age or weighing less than twenty pounds must be restrained only in a rear-facing car seat and placed in the backseat of the vehicle. Those persons between twenty and forty pounds in weight must be restrained in a forward-facing position in the backseat of the vehicle.
3. A person who is over four years of age and over forty pounds in weight and less than eighty pounds or shorter than four feet, nine inches in height must be restrained in a belt positioning booster seat, or other similar federally regulated restraint by all employees and foster parents in the backseat of the vehicle when transporting.
4. Car seats or other federally regulated restraints used must meet federal motor vehicle standards and must be installed and secured according to the manufacturer's instructions. The instructions of the vehicle used to transport must be followed regarding the use as well. Utilization of the LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) system will be necessary for vehicles and forward-facing car seats manufactured after September 2002.
5. All other persons being transported must wear a seat belt. If the vehicle is equipped, the person must be restrained with both a lap belt and a shoulder belt. All persons twelve and under must be seated in the backseat of the vehicle, and not next to an air bag.

6. When an emergency situation exists that threatens the life of any person operating a motor vehicle or the life of any child, this policy need not be followed, but any applicable state laws must still be followed.
7. This policy is also a state law requirement which may result in criminal sanctions for failure to comply.
8. Non-Ohio residents must follow their state's law and prove they are in compliance with that law to the appropriate agency Administrator.
9. Contracted providers and their staff are expected to properly use a car seat or seat belt in compliance with this policy when transporting persons in the course of their duties.