

Car Seat Utilization

Although foster parents are not required to take car seat training, they, like every other parent, should be aware of the current law(s) regarding car seat utilization. Connecticut state law requires that all children be properly restrained in a federally approved car seat or booster seat until they are over six years of age and over 60 pounds. The law further requires that infants ride rear-facing until they are one year old and 20 pounds. These Connecticut state laws went into effect in October 2005.

Connecticut SAFE Kids has a great website with tons of information including car seat recalls. The link is:

<http://www.ctsafekids.org/>

Car Seat Inspection Stations: http://usa.safekids.org/tier2_rl.cfm?folder_id=1400

Below is some information about when to get a new car seat (which has been adopted from the NHTSA):

- Discard any car seats that have been used for more than 5 years.
- Inspect any seats that have been in an accident. Please read the attached criteria for minor crashes.

A minor crash is one in which all of the following apply:

- A visual inspection of the child safety seat, including inspection under any easily movable seat padding, does not reveal any cracks or deformation that might have been caused by the crash;
- The vehicle in which the child safety seat was installed was capable of being driven from the scene of the crash;
- The vehicle door nearest the child safety seat was undamaged;
- There were no injuries to any of the vehicle occupants; and
- The air bags (if any) did not deploy.

For those situations where any of these criteria has not been met, or if there is uncertainty whether damage to the seat has occurred, NHTSA advises to obtain replacement seats.