



## Texas Occupant Restraint Laws as of September 1, 2009.

### SAFETY BELTS.

(a) A person commits an offense if:

1. the person:
  1. is at least 15 years of age;
  2. is riding in a passenger vehicle while the vehicle is being operated;
  3. is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt; and
  4. is not secured by a safety belt; or

(b) A person commits an offense if the person:

1. operates a passenger vehicle that is equipped with safety belts; and
2. allows a child who is younger than 17 years of age and who is not required to be secured in a child passenger safety seat system under Section 545.412(a) to ride in the vehicle without requiring the child to be secured by a safety belt, provided the child is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt.

(b-1) A person commits an offense if the person allows a child who is younger than 17 years of age and who is not required to be secured in a child passenger safety seat system under Section 545.412(a) to ride in a passenger van designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver, without securing the child individually by a safety belt, if the child is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt.

An offense under Subsection (a) is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$50.  
An offense under Subsection (b) is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$200.

### CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SEAT SYSTEMS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person operates a passenger vehicle, transports a child who is younger than eight years of age, unless the child is taller than four feet, nine inches, and does not keep the child secured during the operation of the vehicle in a child passenger safety seat system according to the instructions of the manufacturer of the safety seat system.

(b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$25 for the first offense and not more than \$250 for a second or subsequent offense.