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# CPS Express

E-News for Child Passenger Safety Technicians

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

Recertification

## Top News

### **Do I need to provide free or discounted car seats?**

Our goal as CPS Technicians is to educate every family so they leave an inspection safer than when they arrived. If a child's car seat needs to be replaced (does not fit the child, is expired, recalled, etc.), our obligation is to help the caregiver make the decision to replace the seat as soon as possible and to use the seat they currently have until such time. Seldom does a recall require an immediate replacement. Technicians should document the identified problem on the checklist form and explain parent choices,

noting how the child left the inspection. If a replacement seat is available, it should, of course, be provided.

**Technicians are under no obligation to provide a new or discounted car seat. Technicians must provide accurate information, use a standardized checklist and document anything unusual.**

- If the seat is **expired**, explain the safety risks, encourage the caregiver to acquire a new seat and document it on the checklist.
- If the seat is **recalled**, explain the recall, encourage the caregiver to contact the manufacturer for the remedy and document it on the checklist. It is not the duty of the technician to repair the seat on the spot. If the technician has the repair kit provided by the manufacturer and can show the parent how to fix it, great! That gets documented, too.
- If the **history** of the seat is unknown, explain the potential risks and encourage the caregiver to acquire a new seat as soon as possible and document it on the checklist.
- If the seat is visibly **damaged**, show the damage, explain the issue, encourage the caregiver to acquire a new seat immediately and document it on the checklist. Suggest they contact their insurance company if the car seat had been in a crash.
- If the seat is **inappropriate** for the child by age, weight or height, discuss what type of seat is appropriate, explain the risks of the current seat and document. This is especially critical if they are using a seat outside manufacturer instructions. Have the caregiver initial next to the comment (e.g. child is too heavy, too tall, is a toddler in a booster). Encourage them to get new seat ASAP.

All you really need for a checkup is a currently certified CPST, a checklist form that is filled out completely and accurately, a current recall list, access to instructions (car seat and vehicle), a pencil, and an interested caregiver with a car seat. You will never go wrong going back to basics!

Now an [FAQ](#).

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## New Online Modules for CPS CEUs

Safe Kids is delighted to launch a new, fully revamped online training site where CPS techs can earn CEUs. All content is updated and available at the [Continuing Education Center](#).

See something that needs to be tweaked? Is anything confusing? We will continue to improve the site and your feedback is appreciated—please be specific. Please share your specific suggestions and ideas by [email](#)!

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### **Children in Autonomous Vehicles (AV) Survey**

Are you fascinated with autonomous vehicles- no steering wheel, brakes or driver- that are expected to reduce road deaths to almost zero over the next 30 years? Autonomous vehicles are being tested on roads now and they are every bit as interesting as they were on the Jetsons. The news is constantly covering new products or reporting on the test, but throughout everything, the safety of children is hardly mentioned. Safe Kids wants to know what you think about this new phenomenon, whether you are already working on legislation, product concepts or policy and whether you can envision some pros and cons as well as unintended consequences for children and families. Please do not share proprietary or confidential information. We will draft child specific guidance pulled from experts on a Blue Ribbon Panel to remind AV developers about children's needs as the field evolves.

Please take a short [9 question survey](#) to let us know your thoughts about this. Stay with us over the next months as we determine what basic criteria must be considered for a parent to be confident their child is safe and protected in a driverless car. Be part of a national project to get into this discussion.

Submitted by Lorrie Walker, Safe Kids Worldwide (Deerfield Beach, Fla.)

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### **Navigating Over, Under and Through the CRS Instruction Manual**

If you have been a Child Passenger Safety Technician for even one day, it does not take you long to figure out the instruction manuals of car seats contain many pages. They include important warnings, pages with parts and features, multiple instruction pages on all types of installation methods, etc. It's no wonder most caregivers may not take the time to read many of the pages or even open it up at all. As professional CPSTs, we know the importance of reading the manual. However, do you ever get complacent and not check every manual on a regularly-seen car seat at your fitting station? Did you know there could be a running change on a product and a change in the instruction manual?

**Why a change and why is the consumer not notified?** Car seat manufacturers regularly test their products after they are released in the market place. Sometimes, a new instruction statement is added or deleted from the manual for a multitude of reasons; better performance, ease of use, comfort for child, consumer feedback, etc. Unless there is an issue constituting a recall, there is no obligation to notify consumers or technicians because the new manual and changes would only be relevant to the newest product in the running change production lot.

**What if the caregiver does not show up with a manual?** Most, if not all CRS manufacturers post manuals on their website. Most, if not all websites are mobile friendly, so you can easily look up manuals curbside on your mobile phone or tablet.

Given there are hundreds of vehicle models and many seating configurations, CRS manufacturers cannot possibly predict what every installation scenario may arise. **Our jobs as professional technicians is to arm the caregiver with as many resources as possible, but not to overwhelm them.** There is no better way to confuse a caregiver curbside, online or over the phone, than to discuss all the different conversations you have had online, at seat checks or in private social media groups.

Please use the instruction manual that comes with the car seat. If no manual is available, utilize the online version. If there is any doubt, please call the manufacturer. The customer service representative who answers the call is well versed in the latest and most up to date information.

Keep the list [of Car Seat Manufacturers](#) handy. Bookmark it!

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## **Stay Safe - Safe Body Mechanics**

You have your blank checklists, recall lists, clipboards and a bunch of CPS technicians ready to help keep kids safe...but are they doing so safely?

How we pick up, handle and install car seats is important for your health and safety, just like how we sit, stand, lift, carry, bend and sleep is important. Poor body mechanics are often the cause of back problems.

### **Top Tips to Prevent Injuries While Installing A Car Seat**

- Avoid twisting or reaching back. Pivot around using foot movements, and bend at knees if needed when reaching for articles.
- Avoid twisting your spine. Shift so that you are not rotating your trunk.
- Bend at hips and knees, not back. Keep feet shoulder-width apart.
- When securing the car seat in the vehicle, take care not to strain yourself. You should never climb in car seat. You can tighten the seat belt using leverage, not force. This short [video](#) illustrates how.

Many organizations have easy to follow tips, including proper body positioning from [OSHA](#), the [Colorado Spine Institute](#) and [Piedmont Healthcare](#).

Always include the caregiver in the installation. You should be able to talk a caregiver through the check without even getting in the car!

FAQ: [What happens if a technician can't do the actual installations for the required seat checks due to a physical restriction?](#)

Take care of yourself so you can take care of others!

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## **Nine States Pass Rear-Facing Law, and Counting**

Getting a law passed often takes a long time. However, recently there have been a number of fast-paced changes to child restraint laws. Nine states have passed laws requiring a child to be seated in a rear-facing position up to age 2, with some distinctions on weight and height, and paying attention to the manufacturer's specifications. This is important because parents pay attention to the law on how to keep their children safe. The list of states is below, with links to the law's language.

In addition, some states have legislation pending. For example, for the third legislative session in a row, Michigan has considered the law, and this time [HB4951](#) might have some momentum because the sponsor, Laura Cox (R) is a powerhouse in the legislature as chair of the House Appropriations

Committee. Bills in Texas passed both chambers but never made it to the floor for a final vote—they are [HB519](#) and [SB278](#), but they'll have to start all over again when the legislature convenes again in 2019. Same thing with Washington state's bill, [HB1188](#), which passed the House but never got a final vote. A bill was also introduced in [Delaware](#).

Most of the laws passed are already effective, but the New York law, for example, won't be effective until November 1, 2019. New Yorkers can still urge parents to follow the law now, since it's been [the national standard set by the American Academy of Pediatrics since 2011](#).

Here are the nine states that have recently passed laws:

- [New Jersey](#)
- [California](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Oklahoma](#)
- [South Carolina](#)
- [New York](#)
- [Oregon](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Rhode Island](#)

Laws or no laws, CPS technicians are a parent's best friend when it comes to keeping children safe. For more information, about state occupant protection laws, go to the [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) or the [Insurance Institute on Highway Safety](#).

Submitted by Anthony Green, Safe Kids Worldwide (Washington, D.C.)

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### **The Laws are Changing**

With several states passing laws requiring children to remain rear-facing until at least the age of two, CPS Techs need to be prepared to answer questions and provide product guidance. Some questions you might hear from caregivers include:

- Why does my child need to stay rear-facing that long?
- Isn't my child uncomfortable sitting all scrunched up?
- My child is off the charts in weight and height, can I get an exemption and turn him around?
- Do I need to buy a new car seat?

Depending on the situation, the answers you provide could be a few generic statements or it could require a lengthy conversation including some research.

- Make sure you know your state's law regarding rear-facing requirements. Not sure what the law actually says in your state? Go to the [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) or the [Insurance Institute on Highway Safety](#). Keep a link to the specific wording on your phone/tablet/computer so it is not only easy to reference, but easy to pass along.
- Contact your state's highway safety office to inquire about any printed materials that are available to help families and caregivers know and understand the new requirements.
- Have some answers prepared for the common questions you are likely to hear repeatedly. Reach out to other CPSTs in your area/state to see if anyone has developed a tool similar to [this one](#) developed by the state of Minnesota's Office of Traffic Safety.
- Utilize resources available nationally to CPSTs like the [rear-facing quotables](#), which can be found at cpsboard.org.
- Take advantage of resources that are available such as the [product listing](#) updated annually by the AAP. This list contains many of the available car seat models with their weight and height limits along with their retail price. This is a useful tool when working with a family who needs assistance selecting a car seat appropriate for their child.
- Earn a CEU while learning about keeping children rear facing past the age of one. The updated training site is the home of several CEU opportunities including one on this topic.

If you have a tool that has helped you educate a family about extended rear facing, please [share](#) it!

Submitted by Jami Eklund, Safe Kids Worldwide Quality Assurance (Massillon, Ohio)

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## National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Reports

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), an office of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), is responsible for providing a wide range of analytical and statistical support to NHTSA and the highway safety community at large.

### 2016 Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes: Overview

There were 37,461 people killed in crashes on U.S. roadways during 2016, an increase from 35,485 in 2015. The 5.6 percent increase is lower than the 8.4 percent increase from 2014 to 2015. The largest percentage increase prior to the 8.4-percent increase was the 9.4 percent increase from 1963 to 1964.

Fatalities increased from 2015 to 2016 in almost all segments of the population—passenger vehicle occupants, occupants of large trucks, pedestrians, pedalcyclists, motorcyclists, alcohol-impaired driving, male/female, and daytime/nighttime.

[Read the report](#)

### **2015 Passenger Vehicles Traffic Safety Fact Sheet**

Passenger vehicles are defined as motor vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds and include passenger cars and light trucks (SUVs, pickup trucks, vans, and other light trucks). This fact sheet presents data on passenger vehicles from both FARS and GES.

[Read the report](#)

### **2016 Quick Facts**

The Quick Facts provides a quick reference guide to the most current FARS data covering data such as alcohol, large trucks, person type, lives saved, restraint use and more.

[Read the report](#)

### **2015 School-Transportation-Related Crashes Traffic Safety Fact Sheet**

From 2006 to 2015 there were 1,313 people of all ages killed in school-transportation-related crashes—an average of 131 fatalities per year. This fact sheet presents data for 2015.

[Read the report](#)

### **Trends & Rollover-Reduction Effectiveness of Static Stability Factor in Passenger Vehicles**

The Static Stability Factor (SSF) and the NCAP dynamic rollover test provide NHTSA the information to assess rollover resistance of new vehicles. SSF has statistically significant effects on reducing rollovers, except rollovers by passenger cars in multi-vehicle crashes with wet roadways.

[Read the report](#)

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## **CEU Resources**

This section provides information on nationally-available continuing education opportunities. We are not able to include information on state or local conferences, training or other technical updates if they

cannot be made available nationally. This information is provided as a resource only. Events and activities listed here are not endorsed by Safe Kids Worldwide unless otherwise noted.

CPS Express CEU Corner Submissions: Please e-mail the necessary information (in the format below) to [Kerry Chausmer](#).

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## Conferences

### [Lifesavers Conference](#)

San Antonio, Texas  
April 22 – April 24, 2018

### [KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Broomfield, CO (Metro Denver)  
August 30 – September 1, 2018

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## Online Courses

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge. [Learn more](#)

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## Upcoming Webinars

- Troubleshoot to avoid problems: [Run a System Check](#)
- [Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group?](#)
- [Can I use my smartphone?](#)

### **Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Britax**

Thursday, January 11, 2018  
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET  
[Register now](#)

### **Providing Feedback**

This webinar does not provide new technical information and will not provide a CEU. It does count towards your Community Education credit for recertification.

Thursday, January 25, 2018  
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM ET  
[Register now](#)

### **Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Goodbaby International: Evenflo, GB, Urbini and CYBEX**

Thursday, February 8, 2018  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET  
[Register now](#)

### **School Bus Protection and CPS – A CPST Primer**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018



2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

[Register now](#)

More webinars coming soon! Updates posted on [Facebook](#).

## For Instructors

### CPST Month

National CPST month is this May. It isn't too early to get your courses registered! In fact, there are 16 courses already active on [FIND A COURSE](#). Our goal is 100 courses—I think we can do it this year!



All members of the instructor team will get a special, limited edition CPST Month thank you pin from Safe Kids (sent to the Lead Instructor in June to distribute to the team). Make sure you maintain a complete collection – don't miss out this year!

## Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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### Ideas and Article Submissions

Advocates and manufacturers are welcome to submit articles, or suggestions for articles, to the CPS Express!

Send your ideas and submissions to [kchausmer@safekids.org](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org).

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

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