

## **Child Restraints – The New Law**

New regulations governing the use of child car seats came into force on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006. It is estimated that these changes could prevent over 2000 child deaths or injuries each year.

As an Authority who license Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles we have outlined for your information in this leaflet how child passengers should be travelling in a Licensed Vehicle.

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles do not have to carry a child seat or booster by law however we would recommend one being available where possible. An exemption to the law has therefore been created:

- **Under 3's may travel unrestrained but in the rear of the vehicle only.**
- **Those 3 years and above must use an adult belt in the rear seat of the vehicle only.**
- **Remember that a child up to 135cms tall in a front seat of any vehicle must use the correct child seat or booster.**

The licensed driver of the vehicle is responsible for seat belt wearing for children under 14 years (except in taxis with fixed partitions).

A Hackney Carriage driver is exempt from wearing a seat belt whilst plying for hire and carrying fare-paying passengers. A Private Hire Driver is **only** exempt from wearing a seat belt when **carrying fare-paying passengers**

The law does not prevent you from carrying more passengers than there are restraints but available restraints should be used wherever possible.

If you have to choose who rides without a restraint remember that heavier passengers will cause greater injury to others in an accident if they are not wearing a seat belt

### **Remember:**

- **DON'T CARRY AN UNRESTRAINED CHILD IN THE FRONT SEAT OF A VEHICLE**
- **DON'T CARRY MORE PASSENGERS THAN THE VEHICLE IS LICENSED TO CARRY (A ONE DAY OLD CHILD IS A PASSENGER)**
- **DON'T HAVE MORE THAN ONE PASSENGER IN ONE SEAT BELT**

## Summary of the law

	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Responsible person
Driver	Seatbelt must be worn		Driver
Child up to 3 Years	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used	Driver
Child from 3–12 years. Up to 135cms tall	Correct child restraint must be used	Where seat belts fitted, correct child restraint Must be used.  Must use adult belt if correct child restraint not available	Driver
Child over 135cms tall or 12 or 13 years	Seat belt must be worn if available	Seat belt must be worn if available	Driver
Adult passenger (14 years and over)	Seat belt must be worn if available	Seat belt must be worn if available	Passenger



### LICENSING TEAM

### CHILD RESTRAINTS & SEATBELTS



For more information please contact the  
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