

# SKEGNESS FIRE STATION

## COMMUNITY SAFETY



### Child Car Seats - Quick guide to new law on child car seats and restraints from September 2006



## Fast facts on the new child seat laws

New laws on the use and fitting of child car restraints are coming in on 18 September 2006.

They apply to all children 135cms tall and under, and specify when different child restraints are to be used (rear-facing car seat, front-facing car seat and booster cushions). Basically, the changes from current rules are -

**1. A child under 3 MUST use an appropriate child restraint. They cannot travel otherwise.** ("Child restraints" is the collective term in the seat belt wearing legislation for baby seats, child seats, booster seats and booster cushions.)

The only exception is in a taxi, where they may travel unrestrained in the back if no child car seat is available.



**2. For children aged 3 and over, and up to 135cms in height, (or 12th birthday whichever they reach first) the correct restraint MUST be used where seat belts are fitted, except -**

- For unexpected journeys over short distances, where a child restraint is unavailable (eg. picking children up from school for a friend at short notice).
- In a taxi where restraints are unavailable.
- Where two fitted child restraints prevent the fitting of a third (eg. two child seats in the back seats stop another being fitted). In this case it would be best if the third child sat in the front with the appropriate booster or car seat, as long as there is no active air bag. If this isn't possible a third child 3 years or over may then use an adult belt in the rear.

**3. The definition of a child is now one under 135cms in height.**

This is the deciding factor in whether a child restraint (eg. booster cushion) should be used. Age is not the deciding factor.

**4. Any child under 135cms tall travelling in the front seat of any car MUST use the correct child seat or booster.**

*The main difference between the current and new law is a change from using child restraints 'if available' to one where they MUST be used. This is because almost all cars now have rear seat belts, allowing the universal use of child car seats and booster cushions.*

**For further information please go to : [www.skegnessfire.co.uk](http://www.skegnessfire.co.uk) [www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk)**