

Drive...



VIRGINIA LAW

- ♦ All children between 4 and 16 years of age must wear a seat belt no matter where they are seated in the vehicle.
- ♦ Police officers can stop your vehicle for not having your children properly restrained.
- ♦ Children under 4 years of age must be restrained in a child safety seat which meets federal standards.
- ♦ The driver is responsible for all children in the vehicle.

"In a 55 mile per hour crash, an unbelted back seat passenger of average size would fly forward with a force of 3,000 pounds — enough to seriously injure or even kill other passengers."

- Janet Dewey, Executive Director of the Air Bag Safety Campaign, 1997

STATISTICS*

- ♦ Nearly two-thirds (64%) of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes in 1997 were unrestrained.
- ♦ When safety belts are used correctly they reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passengers by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.
- ♦ 19 million Americans wore seat belts in 1998. If they continue to do so this year, the government estimates some 1,500 lives will be saved.
- ♦ Research shows that when the driver of a vehicle is wearing a safety restraint, 87% of the children are in safety restraints.
- ♦ When a driver does NOT wear a safety belt, restraint usage for children falls to 24%.

* National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1997