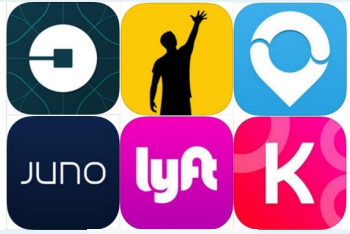


Children Riding Safely in Taxis and For-Hire Shared Ride Services



More families are utilizing taxis and other shared ride services for running errands and going to appointments or during vacation travel. Ride Share Services are convenient and affordable. What you should know about using a taxi or shared ride services when traveling with children.



Pennsylvania Child Passenger Safety Law & For-Hire Ride Share Services What You Need to Know

In Pennsylvania, taxis and for-hire ride share services are not exempt from Pennsylvania's Child Passenger Safety Law. Pennsylvania's Child Passenger and Seat Belt Safety Law requires **all drivers** operating a **passenger car** to transport children:

- ◆ Younger than 4 years of age secured in an approved child passenger restraint system.
 - ◆ **Younger than two years** of age secured in a rear-facing child passenger restraint system, and used until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer.
- ◆ **Between 4 years of age and 8 years of age** in an appropriately fitting child booster seat and a lap and shoulder seat belt system.
- ◆ **Between 8 years of age and 18 years of age** secured in a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt system.

The law does not exclude a taxi specifically as it does, for example, a motorcycle. A passenger car is a motor vehicle designed for carrying no more than 15 passengers. A taxi is considered a motor vehicle designed for carrying no more than eight passengers for compensation.

So what does this mean for taxi and for-hire shared ride drivers?

The driver can be cited and fined for not having a child properly secured in their vehicle. Not securing children in an age appropriate restraint is a primary offense.

- ◆ Fine for children younger than 8 years of age: \$75.00, plus Court Costs (adjusted annually); \$45.00 Surcharge; \$10.00 EMS Fund and \$10.00 Administrative Costs.
- ◆ Fine for children 8 and 18 years of age: \$10.00 plus \$45.00 Surcharge; \$10.00 EMS Fund and \$10.00 Administrative Costs.

Parents and drivers can work together to provide safe travel for children. Follow these tips when planning to use a taxi or for-hire ride share services:

- ◆ Alert the driver that you are travelling with a child.
- ◆ Have a car seat or booster seat available prior to pick up by a taxi or for-hire ride share service.
- ◆ Do not count on the driver to have an appropriate car seat for your child.
- ◆ Do not be upset if a driver refuses your ride if your child does not have an appropriate car seat.

Care and Cleaning Car Seats Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Families are focused on cleaning and sanitizing their home and car to prevent the spread of Covid-19. When it comes to cleaning a child's car seat, do not use bleach or harsh chemicals. Always follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions on how to correctly wash and dry the car seat and its various parts.



Car Seat Cleaning Tips

Always Read and Follow the Car Seat Manufacturer's Instructions

- ◆ Each manufacturer has specific instructions on how to clean their car seat.

Wash as Directed: The car seat manufacturer's instructions provide guidance on how to clean the different parts of a car seat. Most manufacturers recommend using mild soap. **DO NOT** use bleach or strong cleaners.

- ◆ **Car Seat Pad/Fabric:** Confirm whether the pad is machine washable or if the car seat manufacturer requires hand washing. Plan on air drying the pad, unless the instructions say using the dryer is permitted.
- ◆ **Car Seat Harness Webbing/LATCH Straps:** Many harnesses cannot be immersed in water. Spot-cleaning may be recommended. Use a damp soft cloth or sponge to wipe the harness with mild soap and water to clean and allow the harness to air dry. Do not iron or use high heat on the harness.
- ◆ **Car Seat Shell/Plastic:** Clean with mild soap and water. Make sure to rinse off the soap with clean water and dry with a soft cloth. Take care not to damage any labels when cleaning the car seat.



Evaluate the Crotch Buckle and Lower Anchor Connectors: Check the crotch buckle and clean as needed to ensure proper latching. Make sure the buckle is functioning properly and is free of debris. Many car seat manufacturers recommend using water when cleaning buckles or push-on LATCH connectors. To clean:

- ◆ Remove the buckle from the car seat.
- ◆ Thoroughly rinse the buckle with warm water.
 - ◆ **Do Not** submerge the buckle webbing into the water.
 - ◆ **Do Not** soak the buckle or use soap, household detergents, solvents, or lubricants.
- ◆ Remove the buckle from the water and shake out any excess water. Allow the buckle to air dry.
- ◆ Never use oil lubricants or chemicals in the buckle as it may change the way the buckle functions.



Maintain Car Seat Between Cleanings

- ◆ It is easier to keep a car seat clean if you routinely vacuum crumbs or food and wipe down the car seat. Spot cleaning will make it easier to maintain the car seat and you will be less likely to have to take the seat apart for a deep cleaning.



Vehicular Heatstroke Prevention

Don't Take a Chance - Look Before You Lock

Heatstroke is the leading cause of not-in-traffic, non-crash-related fatalities for children 14 and younger. Heatstroke is preventable!

Remember these three things:

- ◆ **NEVER** leave a child in a vehicle unattended.
- ◆ **Make it a habit** to look in the back seat **EVERY** time you exit the car.
- ◆ **ALWAYS** lock the car and put the keys out of reach.

Safety Tips to Avoid Heatstroke

- ◆ Never let your children play in an unattended vehicle.
- ◆ Create reminders by putting something in the back seat next to your child, such as a briefcase, purse, or cell phone.
- ◆ Make arrangements with your child care provider about morning drop-off. If your child will not be attending as scheduled, you should call and inform the child care provider. If the child does not show up at child care, the provider agrees to contact you **immediately to ensure the safety of your child.**

It can happen to anyone.

- ◆ In 54% of cases, the child was forgotten by the caregiver.
- ◆ In 26% of cases, children got into the vehicles on their own.

Risks

- ◆ In the span of 10 minutes, a car can heat up by **20° Fahrenheit.**
- ◆ Rolling down a window **does little to keep the car cool.**
- ◆ **With temperatures in the 60s,** your car can heat up to **well-above 110°.**
- ◆ A child's body temperature can rise **three to five times faster** than an adult's body temperature.
- ◆ Heatstroke can happen when the temperature is **as low as 57° outside!**
- ◆ Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104 degrees. A core body temperature of **107 degrees is lethal.**
- ◆ The children most at-risk are those under 1 year, who are too young to alert others for help.



Heat Exhaustion

- ◆ Heavy sweating
- ◆ Weakness or fainting
- ◆ Cold, pale and clammy skin
- ◆ Rapid, weak pulse
- ◆ Nausea or vomiting
- ◆ Muscle Cramps
- ◆ Go to an air conditioned place
- ◆ Drink water
- ◆ Take a cool shower



Heat Stroke

- ◆ Red, hot, and moist or dry skin
- ◆ No sweating
- ◆ Strong rapid pulse or a slow weak pulse
- ◆ Throbbing headache
- ◆ Dizziness
- ◆ Nausea
- ◆ Confusion
- ◆ May lose consciousness
- ◆ **CALL 911**
- ◆ **Take immediate action to**

Is dropping off a child not part of your normal routine?

- ◆ Come up with some ways to remind yourself that the child is in the car.
 - ◆ Place a briefcase, purse, or cell phone next to the child's car seat so that you will always check the back seat before leaving the car.
 - ◆ Have a plan in place to ensure your child has been dropped off and not left in the car.
 - ◆ Have your child care provider call you if your child does not arrive.
 - ◆ Place a written note on the dashboard of your car, or set a reminder on your cell phone or calendar.



If you see a child alone in a vehicle:

- ◆ Always make sure the child is okay and responsive.
 - ◆ If not, **call 911 immediately.**
- ◆ If the child appears to be okay, attempt to locate the parents.
 - ◆ Have the facility's security or management page the car owner over the PA system.
- ◆ If the child is not responsive and appears to be in distress, attempt to get into the car to assist the child—even if that means breaking a window.

