

Kids Required to Buckle Up

In an effort to save lives, starting July 1, 2010, all kids under 18 will be required to wear seat belts in the front seat and back seat in all registered vehicles. Governor Culver signed this into law on Wednesday, April 28.

Current law requires children 5 and under to use a car seat or booster seat. Kids between the ages of 6 and under 11 are required to wear seat belts or sit on booster seats. This new law requires seat belts up to the age of 18.

The penalty for not wearing a seat belt is a simple misdemeanor with a \$100 fine. Under the new law, if there is a violation and the passenger not wearing the seat belt is 14 years or older, whether they are in the front seat or back seat, the ticket will go to the passenger and not the driver.

This law does not apply to a school bus or motorcycle. It also doesn't apply if all the belts in the back seat are being used and there is none available.

According to Iowa's Department of Public Safety, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for all persons ages 5 through 34 in the United States.