

ABOUT US

The Florida Occupant Protection Resource Center (OPRC) was created in 2011 to provide materials and technical assistance to support occupant protection advocates in their efforts to reduce motor vehicle-related injuries and fatalities. This includes increasing availability of materials to reinforce proper use of auto restraint systems like child safety seats, safety belts, and air bags, and providing child safety seats to families with an identified financial need. Education efforts include communicating information on Florida's laws, supporting enforcement activities, and providing incentive strategies necessary to achieve significant/lasting increases in device usage.



MISSION

Florida's OPRC is dedicated to promoting automobile passenger safety to reduce injury and death of Florida citizens occupying automobiles.

CONTACT US

The Florida OPRC, part of the University of Florida Transportation Institute (UFTI), is located at the University of Florida East Campus in Gainesville, Florida.

STAFF

Alison Tillman
Project Manager
(352) 273-1671

Sean Samford
Project Assistant
(352) 273-1658

Dr. Morya Willis
Program Planner
Statewide contact for technical questions and assistance to parents, caregivers, Law Enforcement, Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Instructors and Technicians regarding special needs child safety, technical child safety installation questions, Child Passenger Safety Week and Click It or Ticket Week.
(352) 339-2894
seatbeltdoc@gmail.com

EMAIL
floridaoprc@ce.ufl.edu

WEBSITE
<http://www.floridaoprc.ce.ufl.edu/>

MAILING ADDRESS
Florida Occupant Protection Resource Center
2100 NE Waldo Road, Suite 106
Gainesville, FL 32609

FAX
(352) 273-1678



**FLORIDA OCCUPANT PROTECTION
RESOURCE CENTER**
Funded by FDOT

How we support
OCCUPANT PROTECTION PERSONNEL



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Gainesville, FL 32609
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AIR BAGS

Air bags reduce the chance that your upper body or head will strike the vehicle's interior during a crash. Air bags are designed to work with seat belts, not replace them. The OPRC encourages vehicle owners to check devices for full functionality.



CHILD RESTRAINTS

The current law states that caregivers may move their children out of child restraints at age 6, but the child is still too small for adult-size seat belts. The OPRC is dedicated to helping local agencies promote child passenger safety.



SAFETY BELTS

The OPRC fully supports all safety belt campaigns in Florida and will ship community outreach materials in the requested quantities or email downloadable files to print.

2018 FLORIDA STATUTE

860.145 Airbag Antitheft Act.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term “airbag” means an inflatable restraint system that is designed to be installed and to operate in a motor vehicle to activate in the event of a crash; and the term “salvaged airbag” means an airbag that has been removed from a motor vehicle.

(4) PROHIBITION; PENALTIES.—

(a) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess, sell, or install a stolen uninstalled airbag; a new or salvaged airbag from which the manufacturer's part identification number has been removed, altered, or defaced; or an airbag taken from a stolen motor vehicle.

RESOURCES

PRINT-READY RESOURCES

The OPRC makes materials available at no charge to Florida citizens. Popular items are printed in bulk to ship free through the OPRC online store. A list is available of downloadable items to print yourself. Check out the items for your next event to educate the public on increasing their safety through use of occupant protection devices.

SCHOLARSHIPS & STIPENDS

Each grant year, the OPRC offers scholarships to pay for interested individuals to become a certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician or instructor. These funds also pay for recertifications. Stipends are available to CPS instructors to teach 3- to 4-day certification courses; multiple stipend opportunities are available for teaching in counties with low technician counts.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events occur throughout the year to promote occupant protection, from CPS courses to back-to-school buckle-up events. Know of an event that's not listed? Email us so we can spread the word.

2018 FLORIDA STATUTE

316.613 Child restraint requirements.—

(1)(a) Every operator of a motor vehicle as defined in this section, while transporting a child in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state, shall, if the child is 5 years of age or younger, provide for protection of the child by properly using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device.

1. For children aged through 3 years, such restraint device must be a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child seat.

2. For children aged 4 through 5 years, a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or a child booster seat may be used. However, the requirement to use a child restraint device under this subparagraph does not apply when a safety belt is used as required in s. 316.614(4)(a) and the child:

- Is being transported gratuitously by an operator who is not a member of the child's immediate family;
- Is being transported in a medical emergency situation involving the child; or
- Has a medical condition that necessitates an exception as evidenced by appropriate documentation from a health care professional.

FITTING STATION LIST

The general public contacts the OPRC to inquire about child safety seats and fitting stations. We point them to this list for local information. This list is also used to send information for NHTSA's national fitting station listing, so contact us if you'd like to be added.

CHILD SAFETY SEATS

Each grant year, at least two types of child safety seats are purchased in bulk for Florida CPS professionals to distribute to financially needy families, shipped at no charge. Any donations collected by CPS professionals are to be kept by the local organization to purchase more child safety seats.

2018 FLORIDA STATUTE

316.614 Safety belt usage.—

(4) It is unlawful for any person:

(a) To operate a motor vehicle or an autocycle in this state unless each passenger and the operator of the vehicle or autocycle under the age of 18 years are restrained by a safety belt or by a child restraint device pursuant to s. 316.613, if applicable; or

(b) To operate a motor vehicle or an autocycle in this state unless the person is restrained by a safety belt.

(5) It is unlawful for any person 18 years of age or older to be a passenger in the front seat of a motor vehicle or an autocycle unless such person is restrained by a safety belt when the vehicle or autocycle is in motion.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The OPRC staff assists advocates as well as the general public with occupant protection information. The OPRC can also assist as helpers at events such as child safety seat checks and seat belt events or as presenters with an OPRC booth and sampling of materials. At least one member of the OPRC staff maintains a CPS technician certification, and a CPS Instructor can be reached for more in-depth questions.

DATA COLLECTION

Child safety seat checks and distribution data are collected via monthly reports from all over Florida to submit as Florida's official statistics on car seat use. The OPRC also compiles Florida information for NHTSA each year for Child Passenger Safety Week. News and related links are posted to the OPRC website with access to reliable information.

NETWORK OF PROFESSIONALS

Opportunities are endless with the OPRC network of occupant protection professionals. News from the OPRC is emailed and made available on the website. The OPRC can relay information for you across the state or in your local area. Meetings are planned for better partnering at the local level.