

Iowa Seat Belt Law Guide*

(Iowa Code 321.445)

Key Points:

- Law Applies to all front seat occupants.
- Rear seat occupants up to the age of 18
- Vehicle must be in forward motion.
- Applies to both Iowa and out-of-state vehicles
- Belt systems must be used properly:
 - Belt across lap, not stomach
 - Strap over shoulder, not under arm.
- Belts must be present:
 - As provided by manufacturer;
 - Not removed or disconnected.
- Failure to use is probable cause to stop a vehicle:
 - An officer may investigate a suspected violation.
- Driver and passengers may be cited separately.
 - Misdemeanor fine is \$50.00 plus costs.
 - Conviction is logged on driver's record, but does not count toward license suspension.

Exceptions:

- Motor vehicles manufactured before 1966
- Vehicles being used by people for work requiring them to get in and out of vehicle frequently, provided they don't exceed 25 mph between stops
- Rural letter carriers making deliveries
- Passengers on a bus
- People with a DOT-exemption from signed by a doctor stating reason for non-use and expiration date
- Passengers (not drivers) in emergency vehicles during an emergency trip
- Vans, trucks, buses and multi-purpose vehicles manufactured before 1972
- People in the front seat of motor vehicles primarily used by handicapped people who utilize collapsible wheelchairs

***This is only a guide. Please refer to the Code section for full details.**