

# Iowa Seat Belt Law Guide\*

(Iowa Code 321.445)

## Key Points:

- Applies to all front seat occupants.
- 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 \$25 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 form signed by 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.**