DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

SAFETY BELTS AND CHILD RESTRAINTS
Policy and Procedure 2.03-C

DEPARTMENT MANUAL

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Seatbelts

I. POLICY

California Vehicle Code §§ 27315 and 27360 specify all occupants of private passenger motor vehicles and select trucks be properly restrained by the use of safety belts and child restraints. A priority of the Davis Police Department is to educate and enforce seatbelt laws among the motoring public.

VC § 27315.5 requires that each law enforcement agency publish a specific written policy on the use of safety belts by all occupants of a police vehicle. The general policy of the Davis Police Department is that all occupants of a police vehicle, and members using personal vehicles while performing Department-related business, use safety belts and/or appropriate child seat restraints while the vehicle is being operated on a highway.

II. PROCEDURE

A. The driver of a City vehicle is responsible for ensuring all occupants of their vehicle use safety restraints while the vehicle is being operated on a highway.

B. Exceptions

1. When approaching an emergency response location, officers may unfasten the safety restraint for rapid exit to maximize officer safety and/or to provide emergency service to others.

2. Members may remove the safety restraint device immediately prior to making a traffic stop. Caution must be exercised to ensure the violator is, in fact, stopping. The unacceptable consequence with this action is becoming involved in a pursuit without being properly restrained.

3. Combative prisoners need not be restrained if compliance with this policy creates potential for injury to either the officer or the prisoner.

C. Officers assigned to operate emergency vehicles will inspect the serviceability of safety restraints at the start of each tour of duty and report any defects as prescribed in 7.68 Rules & Regulations.
D. Child Safety Seats

1. When transporting children under 80 pounds or less than 8 years of age, members shall attempt to obtain the use of an approved child safety seat.

2. If no child safety seat is available, or cannot be readily obtained, the child is to be secured in an adult safety restraint prior to transport.

Darren Pytel
Police Chief
2/87

Revised:

10/95
10/99
1/03: 4yrs. and 40 lbs. changed to 6yrs. or 60 lbs.
02/09 intent added in section I
05/17: 6 or 60 changed to 8 or 80

Reviewed:

12/00, 1/06, 3/08, 3/10, 10/11, 12/17, 5/19