

# Police to administer child seat check Aug. 20

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**SOUTHINGTON** — The Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington and Southington Police Department are sponsoring a child car seat safety check Aug. 20 at the Calendar House senior center.

The free event will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at the Calendar House at 388 Pleasant St. The Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation had provided funding to help the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington promote car seat safety and improve the well-being of Southington's young children.

"The Southington Police Department has several certified child passenger safety seat officers to perform the checks, which will occur on a first-come, first served basis," said Joanne Kelleher, executive director of the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington.

Kelleher said that Connecticut's car seat safety regulations have weight and age requirements and impact all children under the age of 8.

"The technicians will check the car seat to see if it's expired or recalled,"



Joanne Kelleher

The sign for a past car seat check in Southington.

she said. "Then they will obtain the height and weight of the child to make sure the seat properly fits. If necessary, they will adjust harness straps to fit the child before the installation occurs. Then, they will install the seat making sure to teach and answer questions as they install. The technicians may even walk the adults through installing the seat themselves, to ensure they know how to install the seat safely for the child. Educational materials will

also be available." Any installation or useage issues, Kelleher said, will be identified and corrected at the event. Tickets will not be issued for car seat violations. "Parents and grandparents tell me that they struggle with car seat installation and getting their child to fit comfortably so this is an opportunity to have a

trained expert help them," said Kelleher. "I have attended several of these car seat safety clinics and I always learn something new." The following are Connecticut's car seat regulations, which became effective on Oct. 1, 2017: . Infants must remain rear-facing until they are a minimum of 2 years old and 30 pounds. This is an

increase of 1 year and 10 pounds. Rear-facing car seats are not allowed in the front passenger seat with an operable airbag. . Toddlers can ride either rear-facing or forward-facing in a child restraint system equipped with a five-point harness until 5 years and 40 pounds. . Children between 5 and 8 years old and between 40 and 60 pounds can ride

in a booster seat secured by a seat safety belt, forward-facing in a child restraint system equipped with a five-point harness, or rear-facing. Under the previous law this section referred to children 6 and under.

. Children who are at least 8 years old and 60 pounds, tweens and teens must be in a seat belt whenever they ride in a vehicle. It is further recommended that children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old.

. All people and objects should be properly restrained whenever they are in a vehicle. Toys and after-market mirrors should not be attached to the car seat, the rear seat or the windows. Loose cargo in your SUV can be especially dangerous if a child is in a rear facing seat.

Car seat safety checks are also available by appointment from the Southington Police Department.

For more information, visit [southingtonearlychildhood.org/car-seats-laws/](http://southingtonearlychildhood.org/car-seats-laws/).

For more information on the Early Childhood Collaborative, email Kelleher at [southingtonearlychildhood@gmail.com](mailto:southingtonearlychildhood@gmail.com) or visit [southingtonearlychildhood.org](http://southingtonearlychildhood.org).

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