

Parents: Stay up to date on laws that impact families



We know that each stage of parenting brings unique challenges and uncertainties to navigate. That's why, as part of our commitment to supporting parents throughout the county, we want to make sure you have information on new and updated state laws that may impact your family.

We have highlighted some key pieces of legislation that were recently signed into law below. To learn more, visit leg.colorado.gov/bills and type in the bill number you want to learn more about in the search field.

Updated Child Passenger Safety Laws

HB24-1055 updates Colorado's child passenger safety law to reflect the latest research-based recommendations on car seat, booster seat and seat belt use for children. The updates will ensure that laws keep pace with evolving best practices for car seat and booster seat use, based on your child's age and weight. To view a chart of the new age and weight requirements, visit the Colorado Department of Transportation website (www.codot.gov) and search for Child Passenger Safety.



Rear Facing

- Under 2 years of age, and less than 40 pounds
- Must be in back seat if one is available
- Can continue to rear-face beyond 2 years of age and 40 pounds if child restraint allows it



Front Facing

- Under 2 years of age, and over 40 pounds
- 2-4 years of age, and at least 20 pounds
- Must be in back seat if one is available
- Can continue to forward-face beyond 4 years of age and 40 pounds if child restraint allows it



Booster

- 4-9 years of age, AND at least 40 pounds
- Must be in back seat if one is available
- Can continue to use a booster seat beyond 9 years of age



Seat Belt

- 9-18 years of age
- Must fit in seat belt properly

Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle

A new law will be effective in January 2025, requiring firearms to be secured while unattended in a vehicle. House Bill 24-1348 requires all handguns to be stored in a locked, hard-sided container that is out of plain view to help prevent them from being stolen. For a long gun, the case can be soft-sided, but it needs to be locked. The law states that a locked glove box and a locked center console meet the qualifications of a hard-sided, locked container, but there are other options out there.

Healthier Social Media Use by Youth

HB24-1136 aims to establish healthier social media use by youth. Effective Aug. 7, 2024, the act requires the Colorado Department of Education to create and maintain a resource bank pertaining to the mental and physical health impacts of social media use by youth, internet safety, and cybersecurity. This bank will be used in public schools across the state, and materials must be made available free of charge to educators, parents, students, and community providers no later than July 1, 2025. On or after Jan. 1, 2026, this act requires a social media platform to establish a function that provides a user under the age of 18 with information about social media use.

Improved Access to the Child Care Assistance Program

The application process for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) was simplified with HB24-1223 by limiting the application requirements to only what is necessary to determine eligibility.

Higher Education Support for Homeless Youth

HB24-1403 created a financial assistance program for students who experienced homelessness. The act requires all Colorado public institutions of higher education to provide financial assistance to a Colorado resident student between the ages of 17 - 26 years who has experienced homelessness in the state at any time during high school.



Free Menstrual Products

Under HB24-1164, school districts are required to provide free menstrual products to students in at least 25% of applicable student bathrooms in all applicable school buildings by June 30, 2025. Requirements will increase until schools provide free products in 100% of applicable student bathrooms in all applicable school buildings by June 30, 2028.

Visit yourhealthyfamily.org to connect with more family resources and information.