

## **SAFETY NEEDS: CHILD RESTRAINT DEVICES**

### **1011.13**

#### ***Requirement***

Every child under age 8 in care is required by law to be transported in a child restraint device.

**EXCEPTION:** The County Director/designee for the county of legal responsibility may grant a waiver to this requirement upon receiving written verification from the child's primary health provider (physician) that the child has a medical condition that prevents the use of a child safety seat or that the child is greater than 4'9" (57inches) in height.

### **1011.13      PROCEDURES**

1. Provide foster parents with instructions for the purchase and reimbursement of a safety-approved car seat for any child placed in their home who falls within the age range. Instruct the foster parent to install the child restraint device in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.
2. Explain to the foster parent that the restraint device belongs to the child and "moves" with the child.
3. When the child reaches age 8 or no longer can use the restraint device, inventory the device and, if needed, make it available for another child in care. Provide the foster parent with instructions for the purchase and reimbursement of a car seat or restraint system appropriate for the child's size if the existing device has been outgrown and the child is either too young or too small to be safely secured with a passenger seat belt.
4. The county director/designee for the county of legal responsibility may grant a waiver upon receiving written verification from the child's primary health provider (physician) that the child has a medical condition that prevents the use of a child safety seat or that the child is greater than 4'9" (57inches) in height.

### **1011.13      PRACTICE ISSUES**

1. State law requiring child restraint devices applies to DFCS staff, foster parents and volunteers.
2. When being transported, all children must be protected by either a seat belt or safety restraint system.