

Louisiana Car Seat Laws Toolkit (2026)

Updated March 02, 2026 | Quick rules + proof checklist

Quick Law Snapshot (R.S. 32:295)

Age/Stage	Minimum Restraint
Under 2	Rear-facing until limits
2+ & outgrown rear	Forward harness until limits
4+ & outgrown harness	Booster w/ lap-shoulder
9+ or outgrown booster	Adult belt fits correctly
Under 13	Back seat when available

After A Crash: Proof Checklist

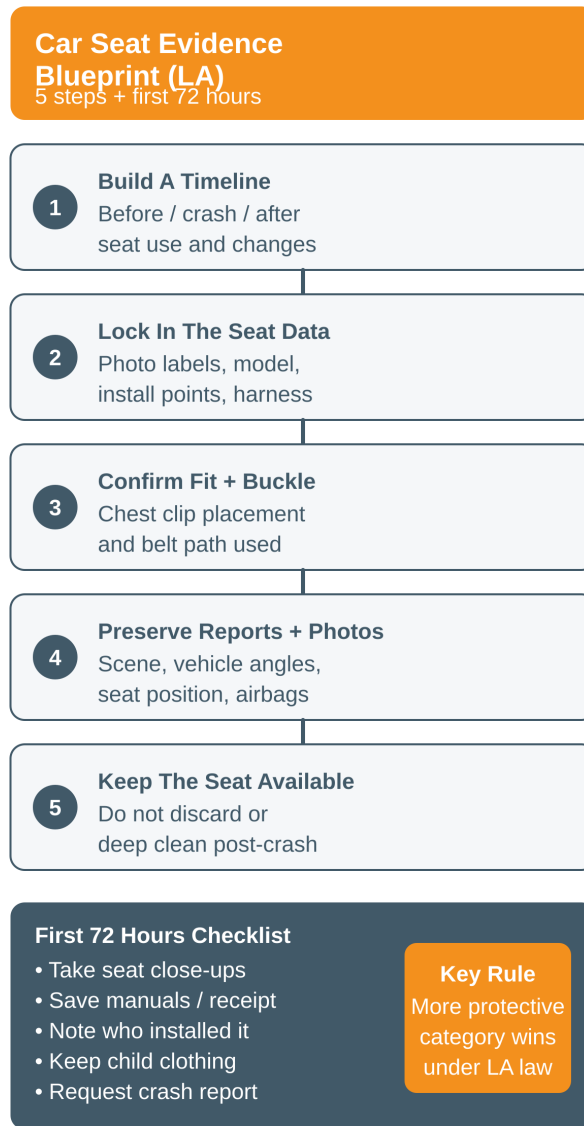
Do this in the first 72 hours:

- Photograph the seat in place before moving it.
- Capture the label and belt path used.
- Save the manual page for your install method.
- Write who installed it and last adjustment.
- Keep the seat available; do not discard it.

Primary sources: legis.la.gov (R.S. 32:295) and NHTSA car seat guidance.

Infographic 1: Evidence Blueprint

A 5-step plan to preserve car seat proof and close gaps.



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Infographic 2: Defense Vs. Evidence

Common arguments and the records that answer them.

Defense Vs. Evidence Car Seat Cases Close proof gaps early	
Defense Angle	Evidence Anchor
“Wrong seat stage” Rear vs forward vs booster disputed	Photos + seat limits Label, manual page, child height / weight
“Improper install” Loose belt path or no tether claimed after the crash	Install record Seat-check receipt, before photos, notes who installed it
“No injury link” “Child seems fine” or delayed symptoms minimized	Consistent records Pediatric follow-up, symptom notes, school impact emails
“Seat was expired” Used / recalled seat suggested to shift blame	Paper trail Purchase proof, model number, recall check screenshot
“Photos are missing” Evidence gap becomes the defense story	72-hour photo set Seat in vehicle, labels, belt path, clip height

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Free Case Review: Child Injury And Crash Evidence

If a car seat issue appears in the file, act before proof changes.

This toolkit is general information, not legal advice. If your child was hurt in a crash, the first days are about evidence preservation, medical follow-up, and deadline spotting.

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- Bring any crash report or incident number.
- Bring a few photos of the car seat label and installation.
- Bring names of caregivers who installed or adjusted the seat.
- Do not delay calling because you do not have every item.

What happens next (no promises):

- Evidence triage: we identify what to preserve and who has it.
- Deadline spotting: we map time limits and notice issues early.
- Insurer contact strategy: we control the narrative and protect statements.