CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT
315 Fourth Avenue, MS P-200
Chula Vista, California 91910-3801

Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: September 15th, 2026
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Manny Salazar, Public Information Officer
Phone: (619) 691-5111
Email: pio@chulavistapdca.gov
Subject: CVPD Urges Parents to Check Car Seats During Child Passenger Safety Week

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Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTS CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

During Child Passenger Safety Week, the Chula Vista Police Department encourages all parents and caregivers to make sure their children are riding safely by using the correct car seats, booster seats and properly fitted seat belts. This annual campaign takes place from September 21-27 and aims to raise awareness about the importance of car seat safety and proper installation.

“When it comes to protecting our youngest passengers, there is no room for guesswork,” Chula Vista Police Department Traffic Division Agent Brian Carter said. “Child Passenger Safety Week is a good reminder of how critical it is to choose the right car seat and ensure it is installed properly.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of car seats (46%) are misused. Properly installed car seats have been shown to reduce fatal injury crashes by 71% for infants under a year old and by 54% for toddlers ages 1 through 4.

Child Passenger Safety Week concludes with National Seat Check Saturday on September 26.

Current California law requires all children under 2 years old to ride in a rear-facing car seat, unless the child is 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. Once a child reaches these milestones, all children under the age of 8 years old are still required to be secured in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat. Children 8 and older, or who are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall, may be secured by a booster seat, but at a minimum must be secured by a safety belt.

As of January 1, 2027, AB 435 requires children ages 8 to 16 years old to pass all steps of the "Five-Step Test" before they can safely use a seat belt without a booster seat. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep children in the proper rear or forward-facing seat as long as possible and use the Five-Step Test as a guide, before it becomes law in 2027, to determine if their child is big enough to safely use a seat belt without a booster seat.

Visit www.gosafelyca.org for more traffic safety information.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Prepared By:	Agent Brian Carter	Approved By:	Public Information Specialist Cait Clark
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