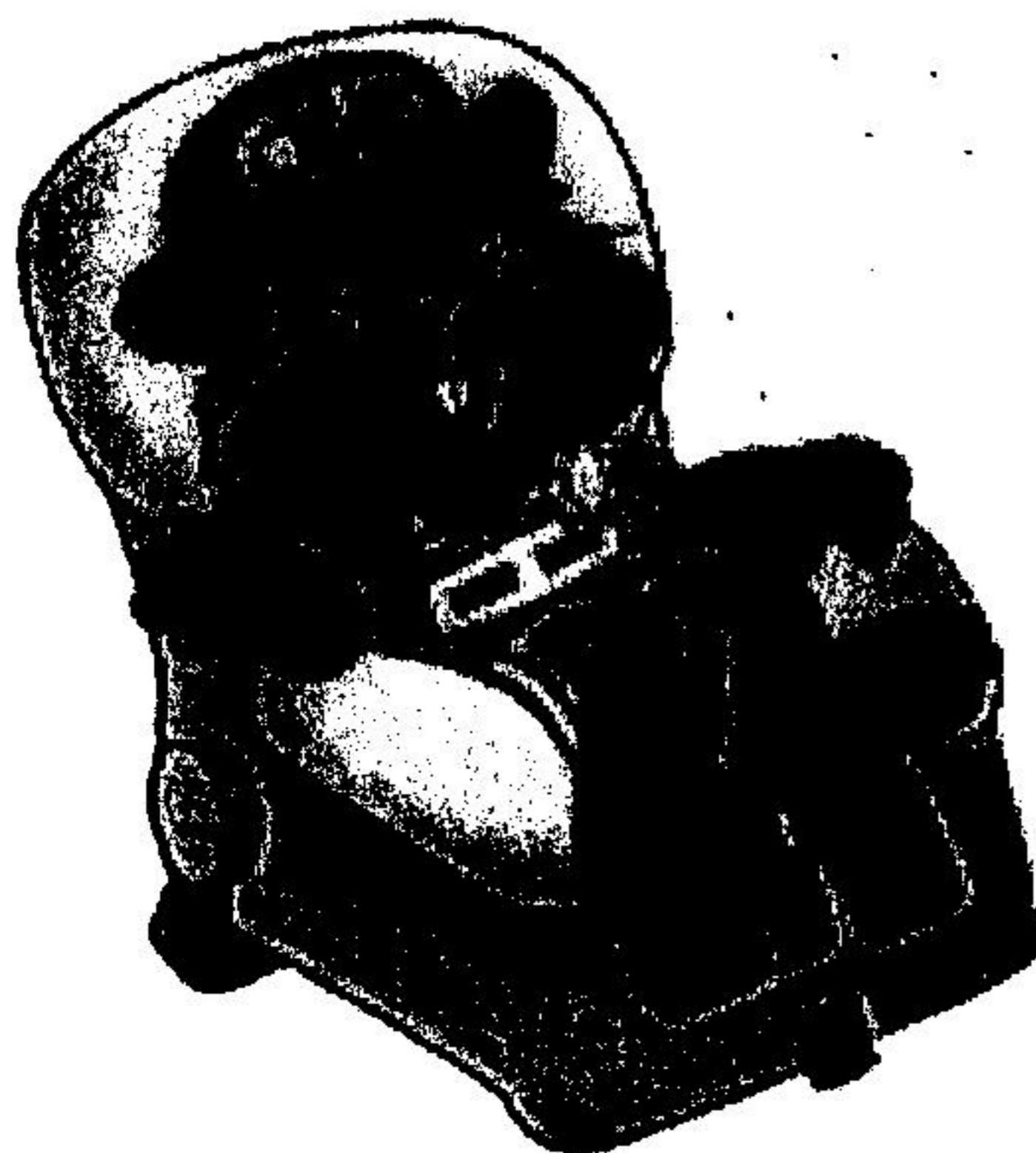


California Law



Current California Law:

- Children under 2 years of age shall ride in a rear-facing car seat unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds OR is 40 or more inches tall. The child shall be secured in a manner that complies with the height and weight limits specified by the manufacturer of the car seat. (California Vehicle Code Section 27360.)
- Children under the age of 8 must be secured in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat.
- Children who are 8 years of age OR have reached 4'9" in height may be secured by a booster seat, but at a minimum must be secured by a safety belt. (California Vehicle Code Section 27363.)
- Passengers who are 16 years of age and over are subject to California's Mandatory Seat Belt law.

When can a child graduate to a booster seat?

California law does not address graduation time from a five point harness to a booster seat. In the interest of safety, do not rush to move a child into a booster seat before they're ready. Each time you "graduate" your child to the next seat, there's a reduction in the level of protection for your child. Keep your child in each stage for as long as possible.

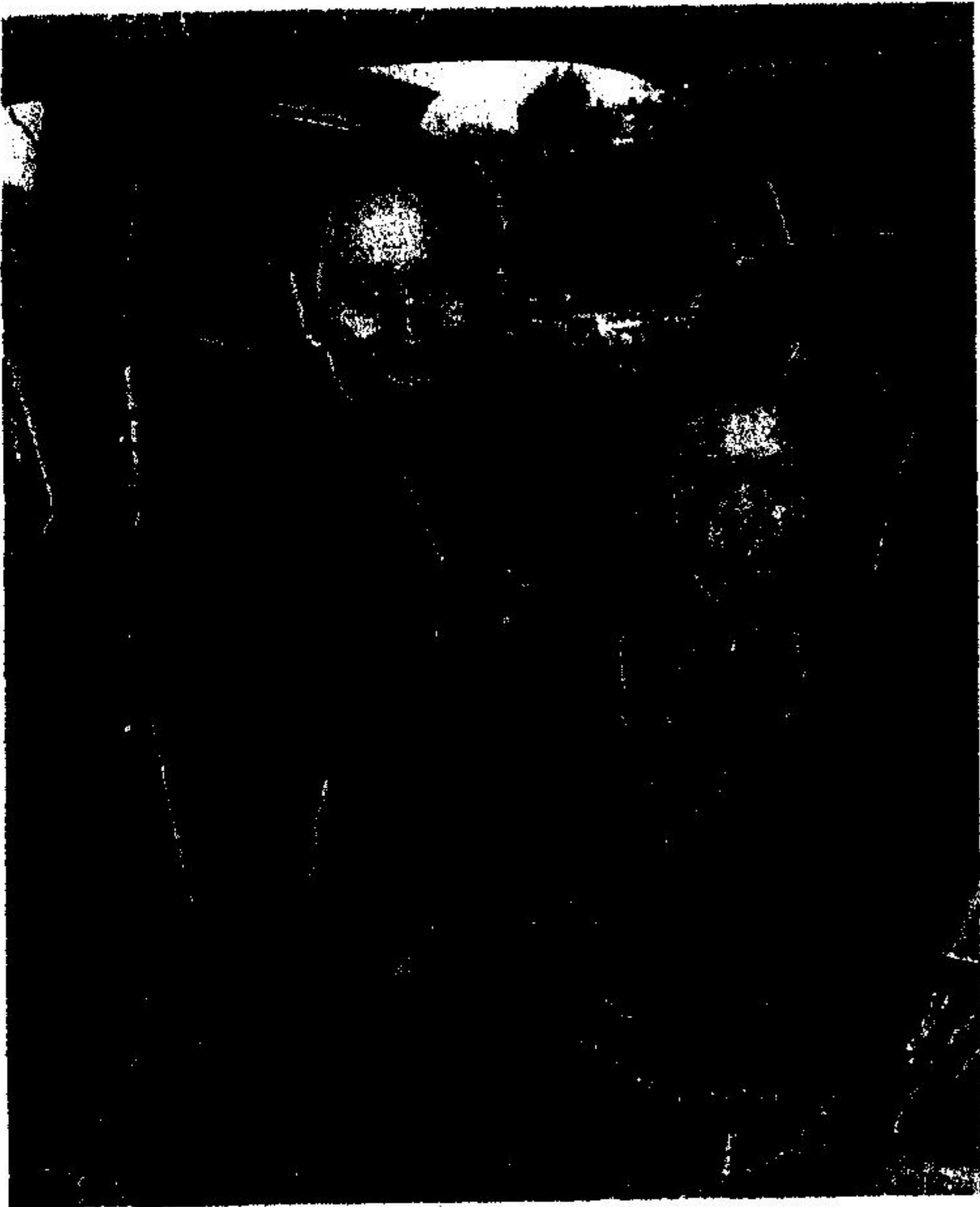
A child is ready for a booster seat when they have outgrown the weight or height limit of their forward-facing harnesses, which is typically between 40 and 65 pounds. Read the forward-facing car seat's owner's manual to determine height and weight limits, and keep your child in a harnessed seat for as long as possible.

Children at this stage are not yet ready for adult safety belts and should use belt-positioning booster seats until they are at least 4'9" and between 8 and 12 years old. Safety belts are designed for 165-pound male adults, so it's no wonder that research shows poorly fitting adult belts can injure children.

Useful Links Related to Child Passenger Safety

- The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Videos and Information: Car Seat Safety by Ages
- American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations, Video, Rear Facing to Two Years of Age

- California Department of Public Health, Car Seat Basics, Choosing and Using a Car Seat
 - Parents Central From Car Seats to Car Keys: Keeping Kids Safe
 - Child Car Seat Inspection Station Locator
 - SafeKids Worldwide, Keeping Your Kids Safe in the Car
 - Child Car Seat Inspection Station Locator
 - SeatCheck.org
 - Top Tips to Keep Kids Safe, The Ultimate Car Seat Guide
 - AAA - When is my Child Ready for a Booster Seat?
 - Healthy Children, Car Seats: Information for Families



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