



Scenarios From the Field



Moderated by:

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Safe Kids Grand Forks

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1

Introduction



These scenarios were collected over the past year from technicians throughout the state

Please let us know how YOU would have addressed the scenarios presented

Technicians who are presenting are not necessarily the ones who worked with these families

The solutions chosen will be shared

2



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I need an infant car seat for my baby!



- Client calls to the car seat distribution program requesting a free seat.
- Agencies indicates that they don't carry infant car seats in their distribution inventory – they will instead distribute a convertible seat with a starting weight limit of 5 pounds, which will fit most newborns.
- Parent insists that they need “the kind with the handle” for their newborn, or the hospital won't let them leave with their baby.



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Questions

- Weight range:
 - What is the usual weight of the infant seats?
 - What is the usual weight of a convertible?
- Expected length of use of the seat:
 - How long do you anticipate the child fitting into an RFO?
 - How long do you anticipate the child fitting in a convertible?
- Cost:
 - What is the average cost of a IO seat?
 - What is the average cost of a convertible?

5

Questions

- Benefits of an infant only:
- Benefits of a convertible:
- Despite the benefits, do we need to provide a RFO?

6

What are our options?



7

What can we do?

- In the case of our program, families may purchase an infant car seat from us at full price (\$130), unless there is a medical need, in which case it would be subsidized by our program funds.
- The family in this particular scenario, after being told they would only be able to receive a convertible from us, they declined. Later, they called back to make an appointment for a convertible car seat.
- They missed the appointment, and when we called to follow up, they told us that the baby's grandmother had bought them an infant car seat.

8



9

"I'll just use duct tape..."



- **Family situation:** the child is autistic and had learned how to get their chest clip unbuckled. Once she does so, she squirms her way out of her harness, so caregiver often finds her with her arms out of the straps.

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"I'll just use duct tape..."



- **Dad came up with a "solution":** dad was problem solving the situation and came up with a solution – wrap duct tape around the chest clip. This would not completely stop the child from getting it undone, but it would keep them busy enough to delay them – though they were usually still buckled when they arrived at their destination.

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"I'll just use duct tape..."



- **The new complication:** The child got frustrated and learned that if they just pushed the chest clip down as far as it would go, they could still pull their arms out. A few times, they even climbed completely out of the seat.

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12

What are our options?

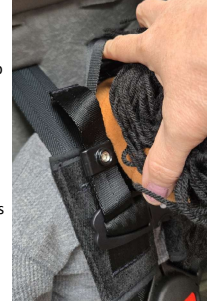


13

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.



Merritt has a product for this particular situation. It is a replacement chest clip that locks – caregivers use the included key or a house/car key to release the clip.



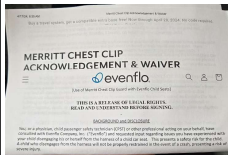
It also has a strap that goes behind the child's neck, attaching the two halves to each other so the child cannot push it down to free themselves.

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14

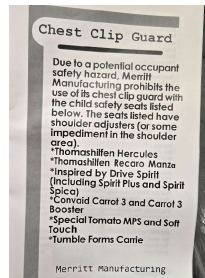
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Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.



Evenflo has allowed this product to be used on a number of their seats, so they have issued a liability waiver specifically for Evenflo – fortunately, this child was using an Evenflo seat.

Permission must be obtained from other manufacturers in order to use this product with their seats. Additionally, there are some products which do not allow its use at all.



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15

15



Product is \$50 on Amazon.

16



17

3 Across and a Broken Seatbelt

- **Family situation:** need a car seat for child due next month and was invited to monthly car seat check event. At time of scheduling, we were only aware of the unborn child. Upon arrival, we learn that there is also a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old passenger.
- **Vehicle:** 2008 Honda Civic
- **Car Seats involved:** FF with Harness (3-year-old), backless booster seat (6-year-old), Cosco Scenera Next to be dispensed at this appointment for unborn baby.



18

3 Across and a Broken Seatbelt

- **Techs Determined:** the FF seat (passenger outboard) was only installed on arrival using the top tether, child was buckled into harness straps that were loose and too low, with a retainer clip out of place. They decided, with parent input, to keep the seat here. They chose to also keep the booster (driver outboard) in the same location so that it can be removed in order to put the new baby into their seat. The new seat for the unborn baby was chosen to be installed in the center.
- A seatbelt installation was needed, as the 2008 Honda Civic does not allow borrowing of lower anchors (per LATCH Manual – see below)

Honda		Accord (MY18-25, all styles), Fit (MY19-20), Civic sedan and i10 (MY18-25, all styles), Civic coupe (MY18-20), Clarity (MY18-21), CR-V (MY23-25), HR-V (MY18-25), Insight (MY19-22), Odyssey (MY19-25, 3rd row)	>14 to 17	YES	YES	YES	NO

19

3 Across and a Broken Seatbelt

- **Problem:** The center seatbelt would buckle, but when introducing any force (such as tightening a car seat installation), it would unlatch.

20

What are our options?



21

21

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.



The technicians were relieved to note that the baby was not due for approximately another month. They requested the parents take their vehicle to a Honda dealership to get the seatbelt repaired or replaced.

They gave training/education to the family on proper use and installation of the Cosco Scenera, but then secured it in the trunk so that it would not pose a projectile threat.

Follow-up appointment was set for 1 week later to check on their progress.

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23

Shuttle Bus Conundrum



- Family purchased a 12-passenger Ford Econoline shuttle bus for personal use
- This vehicle is equipped with lap belts
- Caregiver reached out wondering what car seat/booster seat laws would be pertaining to this type of vehicle and if she should use her child's booster seat in this vehicle



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24

Shuttle Bus Conundrum

- We asked MN State Patrol to weigh in on the legal side of the issue, which is very convoluted.
- "The vehicle is not required to be equipped with passenger restraints under FMVSS, therefore, under child restraint laws in 169.685, the vehicle is exempt. However, seatbelt law requires all occupants riding in a vehicle with restraints wear them, and they need to be properly worn and adjusted."



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25

What are our options?



26

26

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.

Parent was advised that there really is no safe way to transport car seat or booster age kids in this vehicle, and booster use is not allowed with lap-belt only.

We also noted that anyone outside of a car seat is not riding in the safest situation with a lap belt only.

She had also asked about recommendations for transporting friends/other people's children. We discussed the liability that exists there.

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28

This Car Seat looks...different

- Mom of a 4-month old baby came to checkup with some concerns about her car seat
- She was aware that it looked different from other car seats she had seen
- Her mother-in-law had purchased the seat, and they had been discharged with the child traveling in it

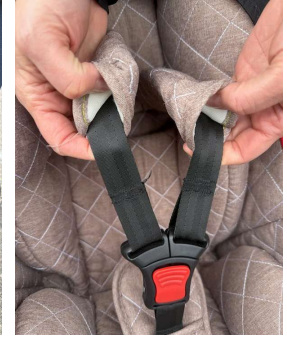


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29

29

This Car Seat looks...different

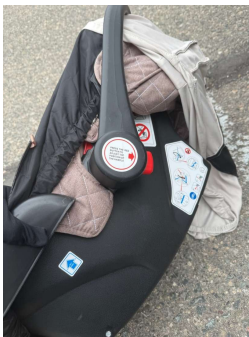


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30

This Car Seat looks...different



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31

31

What are our options?



32

32

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.

This was a tricky situation, as mom was afraid of offending her mother-in-law by coming to the checkup, and the dad was angry and yelling at the mom over the phone when she called to tell him it was a non-compliant car seat.

Fortunately, while we did not have any distribution seats with us, we had some brand-new seats that came from conferences and we sent mom with the Joie Mint LATCH to Target so she could purchase a new car seat and come back for help installing that seat.

Mom was not willing to give us the non-compliant seat as she was worried about what her mother-in-law was going to say.

Mom purchased the Evenflo LiteMax travel system.

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33



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The Mystery of the Unbuckled Car Seat

- Vehicle is an '07 Ford Expedition
- 2nd row, outboard passenger was 8 year old child seated in a Graco Turbo booster (backless)
- Center passenger was a toddler in a Graco Nautilus
- Caregiver was noticing that the Nautilus was frequently found unbuckled
- She cautioned the older child to be more careful about which buckle he was pushing when he unbuckled, assuming that he was accidentally hitting the wrong button

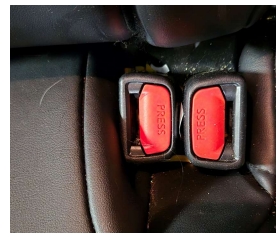


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The Mystery of the Unbuckled Car Seat

- The 8 year old, described as a "staunch rule-follower" was getting upset, as he swore he was not unbuckling his little brother.
- Upon closer inspection, due to the recessed position of the buckle, the turbo booster itself was depressing the button!



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What are our options?



37

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.



- We offered a couple of options to fix the issue. The first was to move the Nautilus to the Outboard Driver location, moving him away from the booster completely. This would have left the middle school child in the family sitting in the middle rather than next to the door, which was not desired.
- We considered moving the Turbo Booster to the driver's side, but noted that the smaller of the children would then be exiting the door nearest to moving traffic.
- The best course of action was to add a buckle guard to the seatbelt used by the Nautilus to block access to that release button



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38

38



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MOORHEAD

39

What am I looking at????



- Car seat check event at an Adult Learning Center – caregiver noted that the harness straps wouldn't move to loosen them.
- A picture (or 6) is worth a thousand words...see if you can make out what is going on here:

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40

40

What am I looking at????



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FARGO-MOORHEAD

41

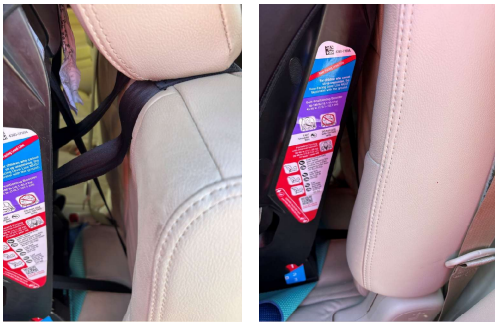
What am I looking at????



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42

What am I looking at????



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43

What am I looking at????

- The harness straps wouldn't budge, because the caregiver had unhooked them from the splitter plate, routed it through the seat bight, routed harness straps over the seat back and had used them to secure the seat.



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44

What are our options?



45

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.



A lot of education was shared, the car seat was put back together and they were assisted in installing the seat correctly!

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46



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47

1, 2, 3 and triplets make...6



- Vehicle: Honda Odyssey
- Family already had a 1, 2, and 3-year-old and came to the checkup seeking help to get seats for their newborn triplets



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MOORHEAD

48

What are our options?



49

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.



Evenflo Titans: rear facing 3rd Row



Evenflo LiteMax: 3 across in 2nd row



Ride Safer Vest: center, 3rd Row

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50

Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.



Once the triplets outgrew the LiteMax seats, they returned and received Titans, which were able to be installed 3-across in the 2nd row.

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51



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52

51

52

Broken and Missing Parts

- Vehicle: 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan
- Mom came in with the child in an infant only car seat. Came in as she thought the child was too big for the car seat.
 - Seat limits: 4 – 35#, 32" or less
 - Child weight and height: 16# and 25"
- Seat belt hold the seat in found to be frayed about 80% of the way through.
- Buckle holding the seat in found to be non-functional with any "pull on it".
- Back seat had been removed and was sitting at home on the back porch.
- No LATCH in the vehicle.



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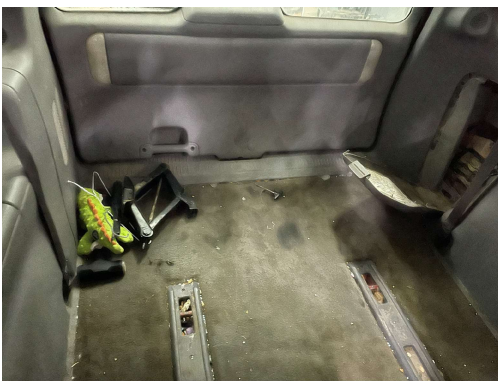
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Rear seats had been removed, and it was at home sitting out on the porch.

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What are our options?



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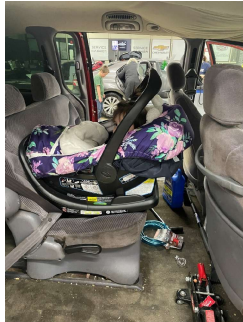
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Here's how we handled this situation and considerations that led to this resolution.

We tried to see if the bench seating was movable to the back row in the event that she had to take another child with her, she would have two functioning locations. We could remove it from the floor but it was not similar anchor points.

We ultimately moved it to the 2nd row passenger side and discussed getting the additional seat put back into the van.

We provided dealers that could assist with changing the seat belt out.



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57

Questions??

ANY
QUESTIONS?



58

Remember your resources: Putting it all together!!

- Instruction manuals
- Manufacturer's videos and websites
- LATCH manuals
- Course curriculum book
- Car seat help lines
- Other techs and instructors
- Car dealerships
- Vehicle instruction manuals
- Healthcare providers
- Parents and caregivers



59

Contact Information

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60



61