



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

**For Immediate Release:**  
September 14, 2009

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**Jesse White and Staff Install Child Safety Seats In Niles –  
Encourage Parents To Get Seats Properly Fitted – Majority Are Not**  
*September 12th through 18th Marks Child Passenger Safety Week*

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White encouraged parents and caregivers to make sure children are properly restrained in appropriate child safety or booster seats as studies show the vast majority are improperly installed. White made the announcement during National Child Passenger Safety Week.

“The leading cause of death for children is automobile crashes,” White said. “Keep children safe by making sure they are properly restrained in child safety seats. Set a good example by securing yourself with a safety belt.”

In Illinois, 80 percent of child safety seats are improperly installed, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). In 2008, 7,168 people were ticketed for not having their children properly restrained, and in 2007, 7,719 were ticketed, according to White’s office. In 2007, 30 percent of the children killed in traffic crashes were not restrained, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers in passenger vehicles, according to NHTSA. In 2007, among children under 5, an estimated 385 lives were saved from the use of child safety seats and booster seats. The Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act states that children under the age of 8 years old must be secured in an appropriate child restraint system, including booster seats.

White said people are often unaware that booster seats must be used with a lap/shoulder belt. Parents should never place the rear-facing safety seats in the front passenger seat if the car is equipped with a passenger airbag that has not been shut off, White said. White also suggests that parents put children aged 12 and under in the back seat, where they are the safest.

White marked the week by holding a press conference and safety seat fittings at the Niles Driver’s Services Facility. He was joined by IDOT, Niles Police, Chicago Police and Evanston Hospital officials.

“There are 2,000 technicians statewide,” White said. “I’m happy to partner with agencies like IDOT, police and fire departments statewide, and others who provide this important public service to help keep our children safe.”

The Secretary of State’s office, through its Kids In Safe Seats program, has six fitting stations in Illinois where motorists can set up appointments or be referred to technicians in their area who can show them how to install their child safety seats properly.

To make an appointment or get more information, please call 866-247-0213 or visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).