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rear-facing • forward-facing • booster seat • seat belts

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### **Michael Chappell Named to National Child Passenger Safety Board**

Itasca, IL – The National Child Passenger Safety Board (NCPSB) is proud to announce the appointment of Michael Chappell who will serve as the Board’s Child Passenger Safety Advocate. Chappell is a police officer in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, where he has served in the patrol division for twenty years.

Chappell received a BS in Consumer Studies from the University of Rhode Island in 1993 and graduated from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy in 1997. After working with a Child Passenger Safety Technician to install car seats for his children, he registered for a child passenger safety technician certification course and became a nationally certified technician in 2002. After twelve years of committed service in the field, he became a Child Passenger Safety Instructor in 2014.

Throughout his law enforcement career, Officer Chappell has supported programs and partnerships that advocate for the safety and protection of children. “An adult can choose whether or not to put a seat belt on and face the consequences,” said Officer Chappell. “A child relies on an adult to properly fasten them into a seat and ensure that seat is properly installed. Since 2002, I’ve made it my mission to educate caregivers on how to restrain their children safely. Every seat correctly installed with a child safely restrained is potentially one less injury or fatality.”

In the past year, Officer Chappell began the Washington County Car Seat Coalition by partnering with child passenger safety technicians in towns throughout the county. He helped other police departments develop plans and hold car seat checkpoints. With these departments supporting each other, more events were held and more seats were inspected. Officer Chappell’s support and mentorship of other technicians also aids their recertification process.

In 2015, Chappell received the Technician of the Year Award from Safe Kids Rhode Island, which was presented at the AAA Northeast Traffic Safety Award Luncheon. He received multiple nominations for the National CPS Instructor of the Year Award in 2016. Due to his efforts, the

South Kingstown Police Department has been recognized as having a model child passenger safety program by the Department of Transportation.

“As a father of four, Mike understands the enormous responsibilities parents have in caring for children,” said Diana Imondi Dias, a fellow CPS Instructor. “He is a patient and supportive educator and is extremely enthusiastic about sharing his knowledge. Parents feel very comfortable with him and confident in what he teaches.

For more about the new board members, please visit [www.cpsboard.org/learn-about-the-board](http://www.cpsboard.org/learn-about-the-board).

### **About the National Child Passenger Safety Board**

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, managed by the National Safety Council, seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. The program is used to train and certify child passenger safety technicians and instructors. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org).

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