Position Statement: Ride-Sharing

Traveling with young children presents many challenges. The popularity of ride-share services such as Uber and Lyft has created a new dilemma for caregivers. These convenient and economical modes of transportation are widely used, but may not provide a safe transportation option for young children unless they are appropriately restrained.

Laws regarding how children must be restrained when traveling in ride share vehicles can be confusing. In most states, taxis are exempt from child passenger safety laws, meaning it is legal to travel with a young child unrestrained. Some states also exempt ride-share vehicles, some do not, and in many it is unclear whether or not the state’s child passenger safety law applies to ride-share vehicles.

Taxi or ride-share vehicles are no less likely to be involved in a motor vehicle crash. They are passenger vehicles and face the same risk as any other vehicle on the road.

The National Child Passenger Safety Board strongly recommends appropriately restraining children every time they ride in any vehicle, regardless of the status of the state law. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to plan ahead when traveling with their young children to ensure that there will always be an appropriate car seat or booster seat available.

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