



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

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Marilyn Morris Receives Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year Award

Utah woman develops safety solutions to overcome obstacles of pandemic

ITASCA, IL – During the pandemic, Marilyn Morris teamed with Intermountain Healthcare’s Connect Care experts to develop a HIPPA-compliant virtual car seat check program for Primary Children’s Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT. The program, which makes use of vehicle demonstration seats, will serve as one of the lasting legacies of her 21 years at the hospital.

Moving forward, families from across Utah will be able to access Primary Children’s car seat expertise, even though Morris no longer will be part of the team – at least officially. She retired in September after spending the last 16 years as a community health specialist working in the accidental injury prevention program Hold On To Dear Life. She remains an active Child Passenger Safety Technician and is committed to staying involved in state CPS trainings and car seat programs.

Today, Morris is recognized for her extraordinary contributions as the National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#). The award is sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

“We are honored to present this award to Marilyn Morris,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Mandi Seethaler said. “One of the things that sets her apart from others is her willingness to help with children who have special transportation needs. When she attends checkup events, she listens carefully to parents and caregivers, offers answers to their questions and provides thoughtful feedback. And she goes the extra mile to assist fellow Technicians.”

Morris lives in Salt Lake City. She has two sons, one daughter and 12 grandchildren. She first was motivated to become a CPS Technician in 2006 by events that unfolded following the birth of her oldest grandchild, Sam. When he was about to be sent home from the birthing unit, she recognized the harness straps on his car seat were too loose and intervened.

Later, she worked to become an instructor for Safe Travel for All Children, after attending a class led by Dr. Marilyn Bull in 2008, and gained her technician proxy credentials in 2019.

“I think the most rewarding part of this work is helping families solve their transportation problems, whether it is how to afford a car seat, or working with children with special needs,” Morris said. “Helping families find a solution to a problem they thought was insurmountable is such a joy. Their gratitude and relief at finally being able to transport their child safely is beyond measure.”

From time to time, Morris has jokingly referred to herself as bilingual. She keeps a list of Spanish phrases with her at all times to help her connect during interactions with Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers. She is not about to let one obstacle stop her from finding a safety solution.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, a program managed by the National Safety Council, seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training. 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 the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org