



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

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Matthew Gapinski Appointed to National Child Passenger Safety Board

Tennessee-Based Engineer Excited for Opportunity to Give Back

ITASCA, IL – The National Child Passenger Safety Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Gapinski to its Board. He will serve on the Board as the Vehicle Manufacturer Representative.

Gapinski lives in Franklin, Tenn., and works as a senior engineering manager in the product safety group at Nissan North America. His team is responsible for vehicle safety engineering strategy.

He also works with colleagues to promote a safety mindset through outreach activities like [Snug Kids](#), Nissan’s online resource that helps parents and caregivers find a properly fitting car seat for their vehicle.

Gapinski replaces Jennifer Pelky, who departs after serving the Board as Chair from 2022-2023 and as the Vehicle Manufacturer Representative from 2018-2023. Wisconsin-based injury prevention and healthcare specialist Jim Savage takes over as Chair.

“I am excited to pass the baton to Matthew and Jim,” Pelky said. “I know they share my passion for child passenger safety. I am confident Matthew’s engineering background will serve him well in the vehicle manufacturing role. The Board is in good hands. For me, it has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group over these last few years.”

Gapinski worked for a Tier 1 restraints supplier and then joined Nissan on the Crash Safety Performance team before transitioning to his current role. He has traveled around the world

and learned firsthand how access to safety education varies in many cultures. His interest in child passenger safety blossomed when he and his wife, Natalie, started a family.

“When we had kids, it reinforced to me the importance of being able to identify the right car seat and having it properly installed,” Gapinski said. “I am excited for the opportunity to join the Board because it’s a natural alignment between personal and professional interests and a great opportunity to give back.”

In 2022, the Gapinski family moved from Michigan to Tennessee. They happily will tell you how much they enjoyed their first Southern winter, minus the harsh cold of the Midwest. When away from work, Matthew and Natalie love to be outdoors with their boys, Jackson, 7, and Cooper, 4. They enjoy mountain biking, running, swimming and boating.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board’s mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation. The Board’s work is managed by the National Safety Council. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org