

Pennsylvania's Bicycle Helmet Law



A Special
Message
For Parents



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Under state law, children under age 12 must wear a helmet while riding a bicycle. Pennsylvania's mandatory bicycle helmet law applies to children operating bicycles and to children who are passengers in a bicycle restraining seat or trailer.



Please read the following information to learn more about the law.

What are the requirements of the bicycle helmet law?

Bicycle helmets are mandatory for any child under age 12. Helmets are also required for children who are riding in a bicycle restraining seat or in a trailer being towed by a bicycle. Children's toys known as "big wheels" are excluded.

Will the law really make my child more safe?

According to the Safe Kids Worldwide campaign, bicycle helmets reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and the risk of brain injury by almost 90 percent. The group's research also shows that every dollar spent on bicycle helmets saves three dollars in medical costs.

How do I get an approved bicycle helmet?

You should be able to buy a helmet for less than \$20 at a toy store, bicycle shop, department store or sporting goods store. Please make sure the helmet has a sticker certifying that it meets ANSI or Snell standards. If you can't afford a helmet, one may be available free or at a reduced cost through a local community organization.

What will happen if a child under age 12 does not wear a helmet while riding a bicycle?

The bicycle helmet law is intended to encourage children to wear helmets. People cited for violating the law will have their citation dismissed if they buy a helmet. The maximum fine for those who don't buy a helmet is \$25.

Is Pennsylvania the only state to have this law?

No. Pennsylvania and 20 other states have statewide bicycle helmet laws and they only apply to young riders (often riders younger than 16 years old).

The bicycle helmet is a very effective device that can prevent the occurrence of up to 88 percent of serious brain injuries.

- U. S. Dept. of Transportation

600 children die from bicycle falls each year.

***- American Academy of Pediatrics,
PA Chapter***

Head injuries account for 62 percent of bicycle-related deaths.

***-Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC)***