

ORDINANCE NO. 016, 2026
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING SECTION 236 OF THE FORT COLLINS TRAFFIC
CODE RELATING TO CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

A. On February 18, 2003, by Ordinance No. 016, 2003, the City Council adopted the Fort Collins Traffic Code (the "Traffic Code").

B. When City Council adopted the Traffic Code, it was with the understanding that the Traffic Code would most likely be subject to future amendments, not only to clarify and correct errors, but also to ensure that the Traffic Code remains consistent with Colorado traffic laws.

C. In 2024, the Colorado General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, House Bill 2024-1055, amending the Colorado traffic laws to update age and weight regulations regarding the use of child restraints systems.

D. To help ensure the safety of children and to maintain consistency between the Traffic Code and state traffic laws, Fort Collins Police Services recommends that the Traffic Code be amended to align with the changes adopted by the General Assembly.

E. The City Council has determined that these Traffic Code amendments are in the best interests of the City and its residents.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that Section 236 of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

236. Child restraint systems required - definitions - exemptions.

...

- (2)(a) (I) Unless exempted pursuant to Subsection (3) of this Section and except as otherwise provided in subparagraphs (II) and (III) of this paragraph (a), every child who is under **nine** ~~eight~~ **(89)** years of age, who is being transported in the City in a motor vehicle or in a vehicle operated by a child care center shall be properly restrained in a child restraint system.
- (II) If a child is less than **two** ~~one~~ **(12)** years **s** of age ~~and weighs less than twenty (20) pounds~~, the child shall be properly restrained in a rear-facing child restraint system in a rear seat of the vehicle. **seat of the vehicle, if a rear seat is available, and:**

(A) In a rear-facing child restraint system if the child weighs under forty (40) pounds; or

(B) In a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system if the child weighs forty (40) pounds or more.

(III) If a child is ~~two~~ **one** (12) years of age or older, but less than four (4) years of age, and weighs ~~less than forty (40) pounds~~ but at least twenty (20) pounds, the child shall be properly restrained: ~~in a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system.~~

(A) In a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system; and

(B) In the rear seat of a vehicle, if a rear seat is available.

(IV) If the child is four (4) years of age or older, but less than nine (9) years of age, and weighs at least forty (40) pounds, the child shall be properly restrained:

(A) in a child restraint system or booster seat; and

(B) in the rear seat of a vehicle, if a rear seat is available.

(b) Unless excepted pursuant to Subsection (3) of this Section, every child, who is at least ~~nine~~ **eight** (89) years of age, but less than ~~eighteen~~ **sixteen** (168) years of age, who is being transported in this City in a motor vehicle or in a vehicle operated by a child care center, shall be properly restrained in a safety belt or child restraint system **according to the manufacturer's instructions.**

...

(3) Except as provided in Section 116(4) of this Traffic Code, the requirement of Subsection (2) of this Section shall not apply to a child who:

(a) Is less than ~~nine~~ **eight** (89) years of age and is being transported in a motor vehicle as a result of a medical or other life-threatening emergency and a child restraint system is not available; or

...

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on March 3, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on April 7, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: April 17, 2026

Approving Attorney: Andrew Trevino

Exhibit: None