

SAMPLE Policy – Police Department Seat Belt Use

Disclaimer: This document is for example only and should not be used as a final product. The specific needs, practices, form of government and other operational procedures of your governmental entity may impact whether this example is appropriate for your use. **PennPRIME strongly recommends that your solicitor and/or a qualified subject matter expert review the final product before it is enacted.**

Subject:	Patrol Vehicle Operations
Effective Date:	
Re-Evaluation Date:	Until Amended or Rescinded
References:	
Number of Pages:	
Replaces/Amends/Rescinds	
Distribution:	General Order manuals, PD personnel

Use of Seat Belts/Restraint Devices in Department Vehicles

I. Purpose

The purpose of this general order is to establish guidelines for the safe and effective operation of department vehicles by department personnel.

II. Policy

It shall be the policy of the [insert PD] that all personnel adhere to the provisions of this general order.

Use of Seat Belts/Restraint Devices in Department Vehicles

- A. The [insert PD] acknowledges that nationally, more law enforcement officers are killed and maimed as a result of duty related automobile accidents than any other law enforcement activity. Therefore, the following guidance is established in regard to department use of seat belts and restraint systems.
1. **Seat belts will be used for all occupants of department vehicles or other vehicles used on department business.**
 2. All passengers riding in department vehicles shall use seat belts and be properly restrained while the vehicle is in motion. **
 3. All prisoners riding in a department vehicle shall use seat belts and be properly restrained unless specifically exempted in General Order [insert GO #].
 4. The lack of a properly functioning seat belt or restraint system in a department vehicle shall result in the vehicle being placed out of service.
 5. Seat belt use shall be enforced in the same manner, and with the same enforcement tools, as any other work rule. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for enforcing belt use by all occupants. The ranking occupant, if other than the driver, shares this responsibility. Peer pressure is a powerful enforcement aid and should be fostered.

****NOTE:** PennPRIME recognizes that this requirement is above the PA State Vehicle Code requirements. As your partners in Risk Management, we believe that seat belt use by all passengers is a prudent safety measure that can help minimize injuries during a vehicle accident.