

BICYCLE HELMET LAW

An Overview for Parents/Guardians and Children

On October 1, 2001, The Child Bicycle Safety Act went into effect as enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Here's what it means to your child:

- 1) All children below the age of 16 must wear a protective bicycle helmet that fits well and is fastened securely to the child's head using the straps of the helmet while they are operating a bicycle.
- 2) This law also applies to children under the age of 16 who are passengers on bicycles being operated by another person.
(Example: children riding in seats on the rear of the bicycle.)
This does not apply to tricycles.
- 3) This requirement applies to all public roadways, public bicycle paths, or other public maintained right-of-way.

Here's what it means to you as the parent/guardian:

- 1) Any parent/guardian found responsible for violation of the child helmet safety law may be ordered to pay a civil fine of up to ten dollars (\$10).
- 2) In the case of a first conviction of this child helmet safety law, the court may waive the fine upon proof that the responsible person has purchased or obtained an appropriate bicycle helmet.