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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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102 Cited for Child Restraint Violations During Child Passenger Safety Week

Dover – One hundred two (102) drivers have been cited for failing to properly secure the children with them in child safety seats, or for failing to have them in any car seat at all. The enforcement was part of a week's worth of activities scheduled for National Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept. 12 - 19). National CPS Week is an annual campaign to bring public attention to the importance of properly securing all children in appropriate child safety seats, booster seats, or seat belts – every trip, every time. Nationally, three out of four child children are riding at risk because their car seats are not installed properly.

Officers from twelve State, and local police agencies conducted both checkpoints and roving patrols looking for unrestrained children. In addition to the 102 child restraint citations, officers also issued 639 citations to drivers for violations of Delaware's seat belt law, stopped 94 drivers for speeding, arrested 6 for DUI, apprehended 7 wanted individuals, made 6 drug arrests, and issued 307 citations for other traffic violations.

Education also played a major role in last week's efforts to keep children safe. Certified child passenger safety technicians statewide conducted five child safety seat check events and inspected a total of 66 child safety seats for correct installation. The car seat check events were held at the Burlington Coat Factory, Lewes Auto Mall, Cozy Critters Daycare in Ocean View, Closics Furniture Store, and the Milford Avenue Methodist Church. While a majority of the child safety seats were not installed properly, Technicians worked one on one with parents to provide them with hands on instruction so that they can confidently install their child's safety seat properly in the future.

For parents, grandparents or daycare providers who could not make one of the scheduled child safety seat check events, please visit the OHS website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the

“Child Passengers” link on the left side of the page to find a Fitting Station near you. OHS’s Fitting Stations are open three days a week, every week during the year. Appointments for this free service are recommended but walk ins are also welcome. Other agencies within the state which operate Fitting Stations also have their days, times and hours listed on the OHS website.

Delaware law states that all children up to age 8 or 65 pounds in weight must be properly secured in a child safety seat. All children from age 8 (or more than 65pounds in weight – whichever comes first) up to age 16, must be properly secured in a seat belt. And no child under age 12 or 5’5” may sit in the front seat when the vehicle is equipped with an airbag in front of the passenger seating position. Violations result in a \$25.00 citation, plus court fees.

Participating agencies in the enforcement effort included: Clayton Police, Dagsboro Police, Delaware State Police, Felton Police, Georgetown Police, Harrington Police, Laurel Police, Millsboro Police, New Castle City Police, Ocean View Police, Seaford Police and Smyrna Police.

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