

Traffic Penalties and Regulations for Children in Vehicles - UAE

Penalties for Allowing Children in Front Seat of a Vehicle

Abu Dhabi Police issued an awareness message on their official social media channels, highlighting the penalties parents or guardians face if children under the age of 10 years are allowed to sit on the front seat of a vehicle.

Drivers who permit this face a fine of Dh400, and the vehicle will be impounded. To release the impounded vehicle, the individual is required to pay a fine of Dh5,000 within three months. If the dues are not paid within the specified period, the vehicle will be referred for sale in a public auction.

The announcement referred to Law No. (5) of 2020 regarding the seizure of vehicles in Abu Dhabi, according to which:

1. Allowing a child under the age of 10 years to sit in the front seat results in a fine of Dh400.
2. The release fee for an impounded vehicle is Dh5,000, and the vehicle will remain seized for a maximum of three months.
3. Failure to pay the release fee within three months results in the vehicle being sold at a public auction.

Federal Traffic Law for Front Seat Passengers

Under the Federal Traffic Law (Article 49):

1. Front seat passengers must be at least 145 cm tall and not younger than 10 years old.

2. Parents who allow children to sit in the rear seat without a child safety seat will face a fine of Dh400.

3. Children up to four years old must be secured in a child safety seat, and violators will face Dh400 fines along with four black points.

The safest place for children in a vehicle is the back seat.

Mandatory Seat Belts for All

All passengers, regardless of whether they are seated in the front or back, are legally required to wear seat belts. According to Ministerial Resolution No. 178 of 2017 regarding traffic control rules:

1. Drivers failing to ensure all passengers are wearing seat belts will be fined Dh400 and receive four black points.

2. Violators transporting children without a child safety seat will face the same Dh400 fine and four black points.

These regulations aim to improve road safety and protect children and other passengers from severe injuries during accidents.

Sources

1. Gulf News - Dh5400 in penalties for allowing children below 10 years to sit in the front seat in Abu Dhabi

(<https://gulfnews.com/uae/dh5400-in-penalties-for-allowing-children-below-10-years-to-sit-in-the-front-seat-in-abu-dhabi-1.77268858>)

2. Gulf News - UAE child riding on the front seat: You face a fine of Dh400

(<https://gulfnews.com/living-in-uae/transport/uae-child-riding-on-the-front-seat-you-face-a-fine-of-dh400-1.1613631510940>)

3. Dubai Government Official Website - Traffic Laws and Regulations (<https://www.dubai.ae>)