


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 4.36</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: SEATBELT USAGE</p>	<p>Amends:</p>		<p>Rescinds:</p>
<p>Index as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Policies and Procedures Occupant Safety Devices Seatbelt 	<p>State Certification Standards: 5.3</p>		
<p>Special Instructions:</p>			

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a policy on the use of Occupant Safety Devices (Seat Belts) by members of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that all personnel will properly use occupant safety devices (seat belts) when operating a county owned vehicle (40-8-76.1). All personnel will insure that whenever possible, passengers in county owned vehicles utilize proper occupant safety devices.

DISCUSSION

The use of seat belts can have a significant effect on reducing the number of deaths and the severity of injuries resulting from traffic crashes, and can assist officers in maintaining proper control of their vehicles during pursuit or emergency high-speed operations.

I. USE OF OCCUPANT SAFETY DEVICES (SEAT BELTS)

- A. It is mandatory, when operating a county owned vehicle; Rabun County Sheriff's Office personnel properly use occupant safety devices (seat belts) (40-8-76.1).
- B. It is the responsibility of the officer driving the county owned vehicle to ensure that all passengers traveling in said vehicle properly use the occupant safety devices (seat belts).

II. EXCEPTIONS

- A. This policy does not apply when the vehicle is being used to perform an emergency service such as, but not limited to, officer rescue, barricades, roadblocks, etc (40-8-76.1).
- B. At the officer's discretion, prisoners or arrestees may be exempt from being secured with an occupant safety device in the following circumstances:
 - 1. The physical condition or size of the prisoner prohibits the use of a seat belt;
 - 2. The prisoner is unruly and the officer is unable to secure the seat belt;
 - 3. The prisoner has been restrained by the Hobble Restraint Device; or
 - 4. In any other circumstance where the officer believes that it would be unsafe or impractical to use the seat belt.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County