



## ***Williston Police Department***

*5 S.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue-Williston, Florida 32696-0160  
(352) 528-4991*

### **Replace Your Child's Safety Seats After A Traffic Crash**

You are driving on the Interstate... it is raining... the car next to you swerves into your lane... all of these are bad enough alone, but combine the three factors and you have a triple-play of TROUBLE. That is exactly what happened to Kristin Ferguson and her daughters, Tyler – 8 years old and Camryn – 5 weeks old on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 pm.

A few weeks prior to the birth of Camryn, her parents came to the Williston Police Department to get an infant car seat for the approaching birth of their baby. Good for them. Good for all parents who think ahead and have things in place for a new baby. But to use the child safety seats deserves a bonus pat on the back! Atta Boy to ALL Parents who ensure the safety of their children and make sure that they are buckled up.

On that particular day in June, Kristin was northbound on 1-75 at approximately mile marker 375 in Micanopy. There was a down pour rain. The car next to her car swerved into her lane. To avoid being hit, Kristin applied the brakes – only to hydroplane. She hit a semi-tractor, was spun round and wound up in the median, facing southbound at this point. The vehicle that swerved into her lane DID NOT STOP and the traffic behind her continued to speed by her. The semi-tractor driver wasn't able to come to a stop until a quarter of the mile down the road. He walked back, in the pouring rain, to check on Kristin and the kids. Luckily there were no injuries. Everyone was buckled up!! Immediately after getting home, calming down and making sure everything was taken care of with the baby, Kristin came to the Police Department to get the infant seat replaced.

That brings me to the point of this article... Buckling Up is the 1<sup>st</sup> step you need to do when you get in your vehicle. But, when your vehicle is in a crash, one of the 1<sup>st</sup> things you need to do is replace your child's safety seat. A safety seat that has been involved in a crash may or may not have been damaged... you can't really be 100% positive one way or the other... so taking the side of caution is the best way to go. A safety seat is designed to absorb the impact from a traffic crash... it weakens the stress points. We photographed the car seat that Kristin brought into the Police Department and compared it to a brand new car seat... it was so amazing. The plastic body of the brand new safety seat is a dark blue. Where the crash weakened the stress points of the seat became a very light blue. Fully stressed to the limit.

Please see the photos below... The saying - a picture is worth a thousand words... Well these photos say even more than that... The seat did its job and Kristin did her job getting it replaced. We encourage all Parents, Grandparents, Caregivers, Aunts, Uncles and anyone who travels ANY distance to ensure the child(ren) are buckled up... If you have any car seat questions or need to purchase a car seat, please contact Gail Poupard, Certified Child Safety Seat Technician, Williston Police Department at 352-528-4991.



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BEFORE



AFTER



FULL PRESS RELEASE @

[HTTP://WWW.WILLISTONPOLICE.ORG/PRESS\\_RELEASE/2009-07-27 - CAR SEAT.PDF](http://www.willistonpolice.org/press_release/2009-07-27_-_car_seat.pdf)