

Riding in the Back of a Pickup

Can passengers ride in the back of a pickup truck or lowboy on the highway?

For the most part, the answer to your question is no, but there are several exceptions. It is never a good practice to travel down any highway with a restrained passenger, and especially sitting in the back of an open pickup truck. It is illegal to allow passengers to ride in a house or travel trailer while traveling on the highway. Section 545.414 of the Texas Transportation Code does allow for the following exceptions allowing persons under 18 years of age to ride in the back of open pickup trucks or lowboys when:

1. Being used in a parade or when in the case of an emergency
2. When operating the vehicle to transport farm workers from one field to another
3. Operating the vehicle on a beach
4. When the pickup truck is the only vehicle owned by the family
5. When the truck and/or lowboy trailer is used in a hayride with local law enforcement approval

Safety is what this law is about. When you allow someone under 18 years of age to ride in the back of a pickup, you are taking a chance of falling out or even in some cases blown out of the vehicle. If you had a wreck, what chance would someone have in the back of an open pickup truck traveling 65 mph, so please obey the law and drive safely.

Thank you,

Constable Ken Jones

