



## McLOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### NEWS RELEASE

**Chief Marcus Koch announces: Strict seat belt enforcement to save lives.**

Beginning October 31 through November 4, the McLouth Police Department will join other Kansas law enforcement agencies to stop, what has been likened to, an epidemic in Kansas. In 2014, 28 children, ages 0-17, lost their lives due to car crashes in Kansas. Sadly, half of those children were not wearing their seat belts and 8 of them were ejected from the vehicle.

“In the health field, they talk about making sure children have received their immunizations to prevent deadly diseases,” says Chief Koch, “but what many parents don’t think about is that wearing a seat belt properly is the best prevention of serious injury or death in a vehicle.”

According to the 2016 Kansas observational seatbelt survey, children are much more likely to be buckled up if the driver is wearing their seat belt. If the driver is buckled, about 96% of the children are restrained. If the driver is not buckled, only about 27% of the observed children were buckled. We want adults to model good driving behaviors for children.

Starting on Halloween, October 31 through November 4, law enforcement across Kansas will be extra-vigilant when patrolling around schools. For more than 20 years, officers have educated and warned drivers and passengers regarding the importance of using seat belts while in their vehicle.

There should be no surprises when it comes to this enforcement effort. Officers will issue citations to anyone who does not obey Kansas law.

Chief Koch says, “Even one child’s death is unacceptable. Please slow down, especially in school zones, eliminate the distractions and always buckle up!”

For the latest data and to see more about Kansas safety belt laws, go to: [www.ktsro.org](http://www.ktsro.org)

*“With professional diligence, responsibility & integrity”*