

**CROP:**  
**History & Impact**  
**of the Car Seat Diversion Class**

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# The Beginning

1988

Susan Hulcher began work at OCSO as  
Occupant Protection Specialist

Fred Walsh retired as OPD Chief &  
became Executive Director of the  
Florida Safety Council

Hulcher & Walsh served on the CTST  
together

# The Beginning

Early  
1990s

Hulcher received a grant to provide car seats to the community

Increased law enforcement education  
= more citations issued

# Identifying the Problem

1993

Many offenders couldn't afford car seats or citation fees

Needed a way to improve compliance without financial burden

# Launching the Car Seat Safety Class: CROP (1993)

Child Restraint Offenders Program

**Solution:** A 3-hour educational class

**Key Benefits:** Alternative to paying a citation  
No driver's license points added  
Free car seat for those without one

# Curriculum Development

Designed to emphasize **safety belt & car seat importance**

Used **graphic crash footage & images** for impact

Most attendees arrived skeptical but left as **believers in child passenger safety**

# Program Operations

Class Size: 15- 25 participants per session

Fred Walsh's Role: Arranged legal paperwork for citation forgiveness

Secured space at the Florida Safety Council for car seat & program storage

# Lasting Impact & Today's Program

## Continued Success:

The program is still running today,  
educating & equipping families with  
car seats

Thousands of families have benefited  
from receiving car seats and life-  
saving education



# Lasting Impact & Today's Program

Program  
Growth &  
Enhancements:

Incorporation of **updated safety regulations & new technology** in car seats.

**More accessibility** for families in need, ensuring no child goes without proper car seat protection.

# The Future of the Program

Expanding  
Reach:

Partnering with more agencies to increase class attendance

Using digital resources (videos, online course) for broader education efforts. Updating curriculum.

# The Future of the Program

Improving  
Accessibility:

Working to secure **funding and resources**  
to ensure every child is properly  
secured in a car seat

Sustaining the  
Legacy:

Continuing the mission started in 1993:  
**saving lives through education and prevention**