



# WARNING!

**IT'S AGAINST THE LAW  
to Leave Kids Unattended in Cars.**



## Don't Forget. Double Check!



# About Kaitlyn's Law

## Why do people leave a young child unattended in a car?

The most common reason is that loving parents/caregivers have simply forgotten the child was in the car. And sometimes, a child crawls unnoticed into a car.

## What is Kaitlyn's Law?

Since 2001, it has been illegal in California to leave a child age 6 or younger inside a motor vehicle without the supervision of someone at least 12 years old. The law is named for 6-month-old Kaitlyn Russell, who died from heat related causes after being left alone in a car.

## What can happen to a child left unattended in a car?

On average, 37 children die each year from heat-related deaths after being left inside motor vehicles. Nationwide, 27 children (ages 4 months to 4 years) have died so far this year.

## How long does it take for the inside of a car to heat up?

Within just 10 minutes the temperature inside a car can rise to 20 degrees higher than the outside air. So if it is 100 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car can hit 120 degrees in that time. Those were the conditions under which Kaitlyn died.

## Is it okay to leave a child in car if:

- Parent/caregiver has visual contact with child? NO.
- Car is on your driveway or street outside your house? NO.
- It is only for a few minutes? NO.
- It is not hot outside? NO.

## What are the consequences to the caregiver/parent?

Possibly, the death or severe injury of the child. And, a monetary fine or possibly jail time.

## What do I do if I see a child left unattended in a car?

Seconds count! Call 911 immediately. Alert the parent/caregiver and a security guard if they are nearby. Check the door. If it is unlocked open the door. If it is locked, talk to the child with a comforting tone and ask the child if they can unlock the door.

## What are some tips to keep a child safe?

- ✓ If driving with multiple people in the car, decide who is the “**Chosen Child Checker**” each way.
- ✓ No matter how rushed you are, be sure to look in the back seat every time you leave your car.
- ✓ Don't overlook sleeping babies and backwards facing car seats.
- ✓ Keep a stuffed animal in the car seat. After putting your child in the seat, place the stuffed animal in front with you to remind yourself.
- ✓ Place your purse, briefcase, or cell phone in the back seat.
- ✓ Share these tips with everyone you know (*parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends, co-workers*).

**DON'T FORGET. DOUBLE CHECK.**