



# KAITLYN'S LAW

NEVER LEAVE A CHILD ALONE IN A CAR  
NOT EVEN FOR A MINUTE

In the Fall of 2001, the Governor of California signed into law Senate Bill 255, also known as *Kaitlyn's Law*. Named for Kaitlyn Russell, a six-month old who died after being left alone in a parked car for more than two hours, the law makes it illegal for a child to be left unattended in a motor vehicle.



BETWEEN 1996 AND 2002

**175+**  
CHILDREN DIED OF  
**HYPERTHERMIA**  
AFTER BEING TRAPPED IN  
A MOTOR VEHICLE

AT LEAST  
**19+**  
DIED THIS YEAR  
IN THE UNITED  
STATES



CHILDREN'S BODY  
TEMPERATURE RISES  
**3 to 5**  
**TIMES FASTER**  
THAN ADULTS



**90%+**  
AGE 3 AND UNDER



**1/3** WERE THE  
RESULT OF  
CHILDREN CRAWLING INTO  
**UNLOCKED CARS**



Dangers to children left  
unattended in cars include:

- Heat stroke (hyperthermia);
- Carbon monoxide poisoning;
- Runaway vehicles;
- Carjacking;
- Child abduction;
- Trunk entrapment;
- Self-release from car seat;
- Emotional trauma.



## WHAT TO DO?

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign recommend following these safety rules to avoid heat-related injuries or other vehicle dangers:



CHECK TO MAKE SURE  
**ALL CHILDREN**  
**LEAVE THE VEHICLE**  
PARTICULARLY WHEN  
LOADING AND UNLOADING.

PLACE A REMINDER, SUCH AS A DIAPER BAG NEXT TO YOUR BRIEFCASE



NEVER LEAVE A  
CHILD IN A VEHICLE  
THAT IS RUNNING  
OR WITH A KEY IN THE IGNITION



KEEP  
**CAR KEYS**  
AWAY FROM CHILDREN



DON'T OVERLOOK  
SLEEPING  
INFANTS



TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO  
**NOT PLAY IN**  
OR AROUND CARS



KEEP FOLD-DOWN SEATS  
**CLOSED**  
TO PREVENT CHILDREN  
FROM GETTING INTO THE TRUNK

In accordance with Kaitlyn's Law, **70% of the proceeds from fines are used for the development** and implementation of community education programs on the dangers of leaving children unattended in motor vehicles.