



# 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, if a car is not locked, 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 in California 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, 39 children (ages 4 months to 4 years) sadly perished this way in 2016.

## 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 in which Kaitlyn died. The greenhouse effect occurs on cold days too.

## 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 possible consequences to the caregiver and child?

Death or severe injury of the child. And, a monetary fine or jail time for the caregiver.

## 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 steps I can take to keep kids out of harms way?

- ✓ 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. To help you remember to do this, place purse, wallet, or cell phone back there upon entering 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.
- ✓ Share these tips with everyone you know (*parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends, co-workers*).

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