



## Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's Crime Prevention Tips

The MCPA strives to bring current information regarding prevention topics to its members. Please use these prevention tips to promote safety to the citizens of your community. These tips are great for brochures, newsletters, e-mails, etc.

Topic: **Kids and Cars Safety**

### Leaving Children Alone in Cars

Many caring and responsible parents have left their children alone in a car, not realizing the risks involved. Some parents think it's okay to leave a child alone in a car while they run into a store or quickly run an errand. The results of leaving children unattended in or around vehicles can be deadly...and you could be prosecuted.

- ✗ The temperature (hot or cold) inside a vehicle can reach deadly levels in minutes
- ✗ Children can set the vehicle into motion
- ✗ The child may leave the vehicle to go and look for a parent
- ✗ Drivers may have difficulty seeing small children when they back up
- ✗ Your child can be abducted
- ✗ Children can become locked inside car trunks
- ✗ A child could get caught in the power windows causing injury or death

### Safety Tips for Kids and Vehicles

- ✗ Never let your child play inside a vehicle
- ✗ Be aware of child proof locks. Teach older children how to disable the driver's lock if they get locked inside
- ✗ Keep the keys out of the vehicle when it is not in use
- ✗ Do not leave your keys in the reach of a child
- ✗ Make sure all child passengers have left the vehicle after it is parked
- ✗ If you are out of your normal routine for dropping off or picking up your child, make sure they are not in the vehicle when you arrive at your destination. If you are concerned, call your child care provider or school to confirm they have arrived safely
- ✗ If a child is locked in the vehicle, get them out as quickly as possible and call 9-1-1, if needed
- ✗ If your child is missing, call 9-1-1 immediately
- ✗ A car is not a playground or a babysitter