

The following is an informational pamphlet prepared by Minnesota Prairie County Alliance Child and Family Services.

It is intended to provide basic information and guidelines for residents of Minnesota Prairie County Alliance.

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Kids in Cars: Never Leave a Child Alone in a Car

A guideline for children and car safety

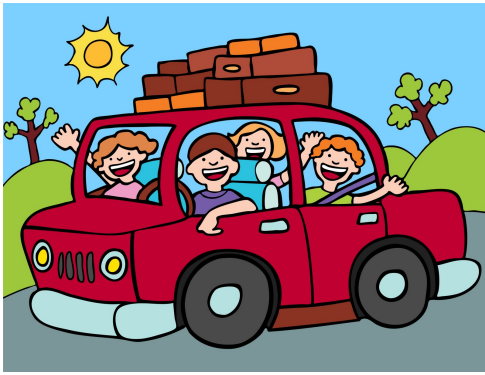


MINNESOTA PRAIRIE
COUNTY ALLIANCE



COMMUNITY SERVICES OF DODGE, STEELE & WASECA COUNTIES

Child and Family Services



Never Leave a Child Alone in a Car

The following are some of the dangers that occur when children are left unattended in or around a vehicle:

- ❖ Hyperthermia (heat stroke or death)
- ❖ Hypothermia (cold)
- ❖ Carbon monoxide poisoning in running vehicles
- ❖ Kidnapping/child abduction
- ❖ Car theft with child inside
- ❖ Accidentally putting car into motion/gear injuring bystanders or self
- ❖ Injuries caused by power windows and sun roofs
- ❖ Emotional trauma
- ❖ Car fires
- ❖ Self-release from car seat
- ❖ Choking or strangulation by the seat belts

Parents often make the mistake that it is safe to leave a child in a vehicle just for a couple of minutes to make a quick errand, but unfortunately leaving a child alone for just a few short minutes can lead to tragedy.

Heat is much more dangerous to children than to adults. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's body temperature may increase three to five times faster than an adults. This could cause permanent injury or death.

For example: if the outside temperature is 80° F, a car's interior temperature can reach a dangerous level in a few short minutes.

**If a child is locked inside the car, get them out immediately! If a child is hot or appears sick, call 911 immediately!*



Possible Risks

- ❖ Leaving children in a vehicle is a citable offense with law enforcement.
- ❖ Child protection services may become involved with the family.
- ❖ Accidental injury or death of a child can occur.

Safety Tips for Parents

- ❖ Teach children to never play in or around vehicles
- ❖ Keep car doors locked even while parked in a garage
- ❖ Keep keys out of reach of children
- ❖ Watch children closely around cars particularly when loading and unloading
- ❖ Check to make sure all children are out of the vehicle when you reach your destination. Do not overlook sleeping children or infants
- ❖ Secure children properly in their child restraints, car seats and seat belts
- ❖ The back seat is safest for all children
- ❖ Keep children 12 and under in the backseat
- ❖ Every child should have their own safety restraint



