



## California Vehicle Code Section 15620 (a)

Partially states: A parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for a child who is 6 years of age or younger may not leave that child inside a motor vehicle without being subject to the supervision of a person who is 12 years of age or older, under either of the following circumstances:

- Where there are conditions that present a significant risk to the child's health or safety.
- When the vehicle's engine is running or the vehicle's keys are in the ignition, or both.

A violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100). Nothing in this section shall preclude prosecution under both this section and Section 192 of the Penal Code (Manslaughter), or Section 273a (Child endangerment), or any other provision of law.



Unfortunately, millions of children are left unsupervised in or around vehicles each year and the results are often tragic. If you witness a situation where a child is in danger, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1.

### Additional Resources:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration-  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)  
Safe Kids-[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)  
Kids and Cars-[www.kidsandcars.org](http://www.kidsandcars.org)



## SAFETY TIPS FOR THE SUMMER HEAT

*for our*



# KID'S SAKE



## Imagine...

You live by your daily routine and it helps you get things done. Be extra careful, though, if you have to change any part of that routine. This is more likely to happen when you, your spouse/partner, or caregiver who helps with your children, forgets that a child is in the back seat. This can and does happen when you break a well established routine.

## Some preventative tips we can all follow are:

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle.
- Do not let your children play in an unattended vehicle. Teach them that a vehicle is not a play area.
- Never leave infants or children in a parked vehicle, even if the windows are partially open.
- Make a habit of looking in the vehicle, front and back, before locking the door and walking away.
- If you are dropping your child off at childcare, and normally it's your spouse or partner who drops them off, have your spouse or partner call you to make sure the drop went according to plan.
- Ask your childcare provider to call you if your child does not show up for childcare.
- Always lock vehicle doors and trunks and keep keys out of children's reach. If a child is missing, check the vehicle first, including the trunk.

- If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call the police. If they are in distress due to heat, get them out as quickly as possible. Cool the child rapidly. Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number immediately.
- Do things to remind yourself that a child is in the vehicle, such as:
  - Writing yourself a note and putting the note where you will see it when you leave the vehicle.
  - Placing your purse, briefcase or something else you will need in the back seat so that you will have to check the back seat when you leave the vehicle.
  - Keeping an object in the car seat such as a stuffed toy. When the child is buckled in, place the object where the driver will notice it when he or she is leaving the vehicle.

## What you need to know, now:

Vehicles heat up quickly - even a window rolled down two inches, if the outside temperature is in the low 80's-Fahrenheit, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach deadly levels in only 10 minutes.

Children's bodies overheat easily, infants and children under 4 years of age are among those at greatest risk for heat-related illness.

Children's bodies absorb more heat on a hot day than an adult. Also, children are less able to lower their body heat by sweating. When a body cannot sweat enough, body temperature rises rapidly.

In fact, when left in a hot vehicle, a young child's body temperature may increase three to five times as fast as an adult's. High body temperatures can cause permanent injury or even death.

## Dangers of Extreme Heatstroke:

Symptoms of heatstroke: Warning signs vary but may include: red, hot, moist or dry skin, no sweating, a strong rapid pulse or a slow weak pulse, a throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, being grouchy, or acting strangely.