

Leaving Children Unattended in a Car

Last month the parent education topic was “Keep Your Child Safe, Look Before You Lock” focusing on *accidentally* leaving a child in a locked car with extreme temperatures. However, we want to remind parents **the dangers of intentionally leaving child/children in an unattended car while running errands.**

Please **do not leave your child in an unattended car even if it just for a few minutes.** Criminals look for vulnerable situations, such as this for kidnapping or car theft. **Minnesota does not have a law regarding children in cars,** but Minneapolis Police spokesman John Elder says **it comes down to a *child-endangerment issue at the discretion of the officer.***

“If the officer feels the child is in danger, he can take the child and put them in protective custody,” Elder said. Parenting coach Tina Feigal feels **it’s never safe to leave a child unattended in a car.**

“I really understand people think I’m just going to run in for two seconds and I’m just going to get this one thing and it’s only going to be a little bit and I don’t want to get this child cold or wet,” Feigal said. “But, someone could come and drive that car, someone could hit that car or just the whole idea of being left in a car could be emotionally hard on a little child, they could be thinking ‘Where did Mommy or Daddy go?’”

Feigal doesn’t have a specific age cut off, but recommends it is a child old enough to fend for themselves and able to get their parents in case something were to happen.

Resources

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/29/good-question-is-it-ever-ok-to-leave-kids-in-cars/>