

Danger of Leaving Children in Cars Greater in Florida

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<http://floridaanswerstopersonalinjuryquestions.com/>

Leaving a child alone in a car is always risky, but in the Florida heat, it can be deadly. A recent article in the [Sun Sentinel](#) reminded us that headlines about children dying in hot cars are becoming far too common.

Across the United States, 49 children—from 2 months to 6 years old—died last year after being left in hot cars, a new record. This also brings the death toll to 495 children since 1998.

Florida, with its perpetually warm temperatures, consistently ranks as the second-worst state in the nation for deaths of kids in cars, according to Safe Kids USA. This is because it can take just 20 minutes for the inside of a closed car to heat up to a killer 109 degrees on an 80-degree day.

Here are a few steps parents can take to prevent a tragic accident.

- Lock cars and trucks. Thirty percent of the recorded heat stroke deaths in the U.S. occur because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle.
- Create reminders. Many child heat stroke deaths occur because parents and caregivers become distracted and exit their vehicle without their child. To help prevent these tragedies parents can:
 - Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or something that is needed at your next stop on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This will help you see your child when you open the rear door and reach for your belongings.
 - Set the alarm on your cell phone/smartphone as a reminder to you to drop your child off at day care.
 - Set your computer calendar program to ask, “Did you drop off at daycare today?” Establish a plan with your daycare that if your child fails to arrive within an agreed upon time that you will be called within a few minutes. Be especially mindful of your child if you change your routine for daycare.
- Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble. Check vehicles and trunks FIRST if a child is missing.

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