

# Petition to prevent hot car deaths; asks President Obama for help

Posted: Jul 15, 2014 5:50 AM CDT By Julie Roy - [jroy@wbtw.com](mailto:jroy@wbtw.com)



In the last 20 years more than 670 children have died after being left in hot vehicles. This year alone, statistics show 17 children have died.

According to [KidsAndCars.org](http://KidsAndCars.org) heat stroke is the leading cause of non-crash vehicle fatalities for children 14 and younger. On July 31 volunteers with the organization will visit birthing centers nationwide to spread the word about the dangers of hot cars. They will distribute Look Before You Lock™ safety education cards for new and expectant parents.

[KidsAndCars.org](http://KidsAndCars.org), the only and leading national nonprofit group dedicated solely to preventing injuries and deaths of children in and around motor vehicles.

[We the People](#) have created an online petition for people to sign and to ask the Obama Administration to authorize the Department of Transportation to prevent more deaths in hot vehicles by doing the following:

- Provide funding for research and development of innovative technology.
- Identify, evaluate and test new technology to accelerate implementation of the most feasible and effective solutions.
- Require installation of technology in all vehicles and/or child safety seats to prevent children from being left alone left alone in vehicles.

A parked car can reach 125 degrees in minutes, even when the windows are partially open, according to [KidsAndCars.org](http://KidsAndCars.org). Children are more susceptible because their body temperature rises faster than adults.

Here are some tips from [KidsAndCars.org](http://KidsAndCars.org) to prevent heatstroke related to a child being left in a hot car.

- Get in the habit of always opening the back door of your vehicle every time you reach your destination to check to make sure no child - or pet - has been left behind.
- Keep a large stuffed animal in the child's car seat. Right before the child is placed in the seat, move the stuffed animal to the front passenger seat as a visual reminder that your child is in the back seat.
- Put something you'll need on the *floorboard* in the back seat in front of your child's car seat (cell phone, handbag, employee ID, briefcase, etc.). This ensures you open the back door of your vehicle to retrieve your belongings.
- Make arrangements with your daycare provider or babysitter to call you within 10 minutes if your child does not arrive as expected.
- Never leave children alone in or around cars, not even for a minute. Instead, use drive-thru services when available.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway and keep car keys and remote openers out of reach of children.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks immediately.

[RELATED STORY](#) of 13-month-old Sophia Jane Goyeneche-Gray, from Hartsville who died after being left alone in a car, for several hours.

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/26019641/petition-to-prevent-hot-car-deaths-asks-president-obama-for-help>