

## Pregnant moms car stolen with child alone inside

February 24, 2023 - A pregnant woman's vehicle was stolen in Libertyville, IL with a child alone inside on Thursday (2/24). According to news reports, the pregnant woman pulled into her driveway and removed one of the children from the car while leaving the other alone inside in the car. When she came back out to retrieve the other child, a car with two men pulled up and attempted to steal her car. She fought the two thieves but was unsuccessful and got knocked down and ran over by them. She survived, though is in critical condition. The child in the stolen car was eventually found, but the car and thieves were not.

Contrary to what many believe, this is not a rare occurrence. Already this year, Kids and Car Safety has documented 41 children who were left alone in a vehicle that was then stolen.

Although the victims of these types of incidents typically survive, it is incredibly traumatizing for everyone involved. Incidents like this are very easily avoidable by never leaving a child alone in a vehicle.

## Car Theft Video PSA:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwdJDoykYA&list=PLiTMO4amBVbJwmPgEjDRRTkqBNuJmYAeD&index=24

Thieves watch for vehicles to be left unattended with the keys inside. Most of the time, they don't realize that there is a child inside until after they have already stolen the vehicle.

Car thefts happen even in the safest neighborhoods. It only takes a few seconds for a car thief to jump into a vehicle and be gone.

## **Tips for parents:**

1. Never leave a child of any age or pet alone in a vehicle, not even for a minute.

2. Use drive-thrus or curbside pickup so you don't have to leave your vehicle.

3. If a business doesn't offer curbside delivery, call upon arrival and ask them to bring your order to your car. Most people are more than happy to accommodate you when you tell them you have small children. It takes a village!

4. Keep car doors locked and keys on your person when pumping gas with children inside the vehicle.

For more information on the dangers children face when left alone in vehicles visit our website.

## Media Contact:

Amber Rollins, Director Kids and Car Safety (913) 732-2792 <u>Amber@KidsAndCars.org</u>

