

Parents warn others after daughter's hot car death

Group wants others to take pledge to prevent future deaths

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Courtesy Ray Ray's Pledge

KANSAS CITY, Mo. —In the last 11 days, four children have died across the United States after being left in vehicles.

KMBC 9's Donna Pitman spoke with a mother who said she learned first-hand that the biggest risk factor is assuming that it couldn't happen to you.

"That morning, for whatever reason, we don't know why this happened, instead of taking that left turn, he made a right turn," said Kristie Reeves.

She said her husband thought he had dropped their 1-year-old daughter Ray Ray off at day care, even telling Reeves how pretty she looked that morning.

"My husband got very silent, thinking about why the teacher didn't comment on her dress," Reeves said.

She said he realized that Ray Ray was still in his truck. Efforts to revive her failed and she died after being inside for about three hours.

"Ray Ray was my soul mate. She was my husband's soul mate," Reeves said.

She said she still looks back at a photograph taken days before her daughter died.

"I took her out for a Mommy-daughter lunch. We had so much fun. I miss watching her eat guacamole," Reeves said.

A child's body heats up much faster than an adult's. The inside of car can also get much hotter on a warm day than the temperature outside.

Experts said there are common factors in cases where children die from being left in hot cars, including a change in the parents' routines, stress and a lack of sleep.

The Reeves' started [Ray Ray's Pledge](#) in the wake of their loss to help stop other children from dying in hot cars. They recommend that parents always put something they need in the back seat with the child, such as a purse, a briefcase or backpack so that they always open the door and check in the back before they get out.

The Reeves now have twin daughters and both have Ray Ray's middle name, Raine.

<http://www.kmbc.com/news/kansas-city/parents-warn-others-after-daughters-hot-car-death/-/11664182/20240742/-/n6hy1vz/-/index.html#ixzz2Ty3x0fzR>