Mika was only 6-months-old when she died from heat stroke after being left in a vehicle. Mika’s father dropped off her sister, but Mika fell asleep in her rear-facing car seat while her dad was distracted by a phone call with news of a possible job after having been laid off weeks before. The road he normally took was blocked, so he had to take a detour. He stopped at the post office where he ran into a friend he’d been helping with a project at church. He then drove to the church, not realizing until later that day, he never dropped Mika off at day care. When Mika was found, it was too late.

new parents suffer from exhaustion due to lack of sleep, hormone changes, stress, and changes in their normal routine. Any one of these changes can cause your memory to fail at a time you least expect it. Even the best of parents or caregivers can overlook a sleeping baby in a car; and the end result can be injury or even death.

Share these important safety tips with your spouse, family, friends, co-workers, babysitters and child care providers.
SAFETY CHECKLIST

Make sure your child is never left alone in a car.

- Make it a routine to open the back door of your car every time you park to check that no one has been left behind.
- Put something in the back seat to remind you to open the back door every time you park—cell phone, employee badge, handbag, etc.
- Keep a stuffed animal in baby's car seat. Place it on the front seat as a reminder when baby is in the back seat.
- Ask your babysitter or child care provider to call you if your child hasn’t arrived as scheduled.

Make sure children cannot get into a parked car.

- Keep vehicles locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway.
- Keys and remote openers should never be left within reach of children.
- If a child goes missing, immediately check the trunk and inside of all vehicles in the area very carefully.

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