

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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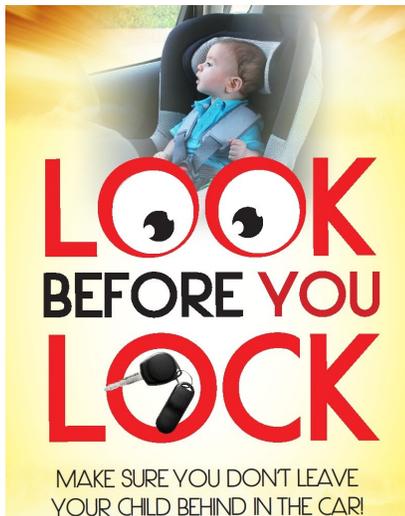
HONOR ◊ COURAGE ◊ INTEGRITY

“LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK”

With summer fast approaching and temperatures heating up, the Harlingen Police Department would like to take this time to educate parents and caregivers of young children on the dangers of leaving children inside vehicles. Young children are very susceptible to heat-stroke if left unattended inside a parked vehicle. The average number of U.S. child heatstroke fatalities per year since 1998 is 38 (Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). When outside temperatures are in the low 80's, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach deadly levels in only 10 minutes even with a window rolled down a few inches. Children's bodies overheat easily, and infants and children under four (4) years old are at the greatest risk for heat-related illnesses.

- Never leave a child unattended inside a vehicle
- Check the vehicle (front & back) before locking and walking away
- Teach children that vehicles are NOT play areas
- Store vehicle keys out of a child's reach

The Harlingen Police Department encourages community members who see a child alone inside a hot vehicle to immediately call **911** or the local Emergency number. A child in distress due to heat should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and rapidly cooled.



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