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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Vehicles Are Not Babysitters**

Kettering- Already in 2009, there has been six nationwide deaths of children left in hot vehicles. Since 1998, there have been at least 420 senseless deaths of children dying from hyperthermia in vehicles. The majority of these deaths are a result of the child being forgotten; however, a significant number are from children playing in vehicles and caregivers intentionally leaving children in vehicles.

The Kettering Police Department wants to increase public awareness and parental education of heat rise in motor vehicles.

The American Academy of Pediatrics completed a study and found that on days when the temperature is 72 degrees, the internal temperature of the vehicle can reach 117 degrees within 60 minutes. On average, the internal temperature of a vehicle can rise almost 20 degrees in 10 minutes. Further studies found that "cracking" a window is not effective in decreasing either the rate of heat rise or the maximum temperature.

In addition to heat illness, leaving children unattended in motor vehicles puts them at risk for other harm, such as burns from buckles, injury from the child putting the vehicle in motion, and abduction.

Prevention of heat illness and other injuries is simple. Do not leave children in a vehicle unattended. Laws regarding children in vehicles currently exist in nine states. In February, 2009, Senate Bill 56 was introduced in the Ohio legislation to address leaving children unattended in a vehicle. The Kettering Police Department hopes to educate the public and help prevent any injury or death to children.

