



**Public Health**  
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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**JULY 29, 2016**

## **NATIONAL HEATSTROKE PREVENTION DAY IS JULY 31, 2016**

Never leave an unattended child in a vehicle

**FREDERICK, MD --** Vehicular heatstroke is preventable by taking a few simple steps. That's why Safe Kids Frederick County has joined with the Frederick County Health Department's Special Delivery nurse program to remind parents and caregivers about the dangers of heatstroke and leaving children in hot cars. Last year 24 children lost their lives nationwide but already 23 have died in a hot car in 2016. Since 1998, 14 kids in Maryland have died by being left in a hot car.

Children's body temperatures can rise up to five times faster than that of an adult, and heatstroke can occur in temperatures as low as 57 degrees. On an 80-degree day, a car can reach deadly levels in just 10 minutes.

Safe Kids Frederick County and Special Delivery urges all parents and caregivers to do these three things:

- 1) NEVER leave a child in a vehicle unattended; 2) Make it a habit to look in the backseat EVERY time you exit the car; 3) ALWAYS lock the car and put the keys out of reach; 4) And, if you ever see a child left alone in a hot vehicle, call 911 right away.
- 2) Arrange with your childcare provider to contact you if your child is expected to attend childcare but does not arrive within the expected time.

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- 3) The National Day to Prevent Heatstroke and increase awareness of the dangers of kids in hot cars is Sunday, July 31, 2016. Join us in telling friends, family, and neighbors about the dangers of kids in hot cars.

For more information please contact Nancy C Boyd, RN, CPSTI, Coordinator, Safe Kids Frederick County, Families Plus, Inc., 35 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701, 301-694-9002, [nboyd@familiesplus.org](mailto:nboyd@familiesplus.org) and visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org).

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