



# WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF KEVIN L. SANZENBACHER  
MAJOR DAVID H. WHITE  
CAPTAIN KELLY S. RICE  
CAPTAIN LEONARD M. BAUSERMAN  
CAPTAIN DOUGLAS R. WATSON

231 EAST PICCADILLY STREET, SUITE 310  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601  
PHONE: (540) 545-4700 OR (540) 545-4730  
FAX: (540) 542-1314  
EMAIL: [WPDCHIEF@CI.WINCHESTER.VA.US](mailto:WPDCHIEF@CI.WINCHESTER.VA.US)  
WEBSITE: [WWW.WINCHESTERPOLICE.ORG](http://WWW.WINCHESTERPOLICE.ORG)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### HOT CARS AND KIDS, A DEADLY COMBINATION

As summertime approaches and the hot, humid weather does along with it; the Winchester Police Department would like to remind citizens about the dangers of leaving infants and children alone in unattended vehicles. A child's body temperature rises 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's, making them more vulnerable to temperature changes. Even with the windows partially down, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 125 degrees in just minutes. A vehicles' interior heats up quickly, with the majority of the temperature rise occurring within the first 15 to 30 minutes. Leaving windows slightly opened does NOT slow the heating process or decrease the maximum temperature attained.

30% of Heat-related Vehicular Death (HRVD) cases involve children who have been left in or playing around unsupervised cars or trucks. Some of these children were unable to use the door lock system or door releases to open the doors. Others became trapped when hiding in the trunk. Here are some tips to prevent heat related vehicular deaths among children:

- ❖ NEVER leave a child unattended inside a vehicle – even if the air-conditioning is on or a window is slightly opened.
- ❖ Never let children play in or around a parked car, keep it locked even in your garage.
- ❖ Make it a habit to open the back door and check the backseat before walking away from it.
- ❖ Make it a routine and place your handbag, purse, cell phone, or laptop on the back floorboard.
- ❖ If you see a child left alone in a car, call the police or 911 immediately. If the baby or child is in distress, or it is hot outside, break the window furthest away from the child.

For more information, go to [www.kidsandcars.org](http://www.kidsandcars.org). This media release was prepared by Sergeant Mark Lahman at 540-545-7548 (office), or 540-974-7415 (cell), or [mlahman@ci.winchester.va.us](mailto:mlahman@ci.winchester.va.us) email.

The Winchester Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life for all people by preventing crime in the city. We will accomplish this by enforcing the law with impartiality, creating partnerships through communication, education, and problem solving using innovative policing strategies.