



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

## Exemptions Newsletter Summer 2017

### Look Again 2017

With more than 370,000 children in Georgia child care programs each day, it is vitally important to ensure each child's health and safety, especially during transportation. In the video below, Governor Nathan Deal, First Lady Sandra Deal, and Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs called for families and caregivers of children to have heightened awareness of the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles.



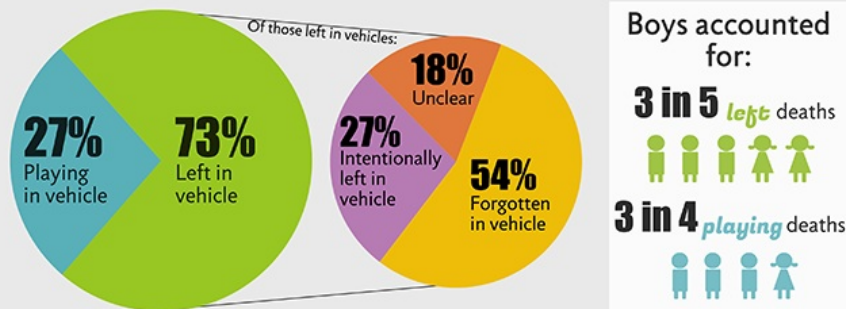
# Heatstroke Deaths of Children in Vehicles



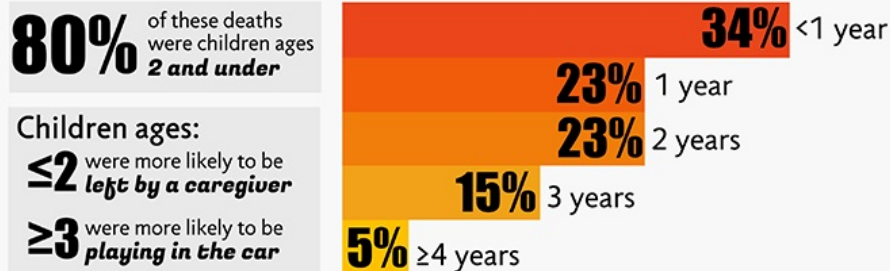
## BY THE NUMBERS NHTSA (2012)

- 10** the minutes it takes for a car to reach deadly temperatures on an 80 degree day
- 38** the average number of children who die from vehicular heatstroke in the US each year
- 57** the lowest known outside temperature at which heatstroke can occur

## BY CIRCUMSTANCE Guard (2005)



## BY AGE Guard (2005)



## TIPS NHTSA (2012)

- Never** leave children in a vehicle unattended, even with the windows cracked, even "for a minute"
- Always** check the backseat when exiting the vehicle (put your phone or your purse in the backseat to create a reminder system)
- Always** keep vehicle doors and trunks locked and keys out of reach
- Make** an agreement with your childcare provider to always call you when your child is absent
- Call 911** if you see a child alone in a vehicle

For detailed sources and resources: [ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/publications/heatstrokeinfographic](http://ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/publications/heatstrokeinfographic)  
 For NHTSA's Look Before You Lock Campaign: [safercar.gov/parents/heat-involved.htm](http://safercar.gov/parents/heat-involved.htm)



[www.ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org](http://www.ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org)

July 2013

## NEW This Summer: Monitoring Visits for Exempt Programs

### Overview for **Category #1 & #7 Exempt Programs**

In October 2016 updated rules went into effect for all licensed child care programs to help ensure the health and safety for children in care. The federal Child Care

andDevelopment Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 made those rule updates necessary. The revised rules require all staff with direct care responsibilities to complete **Health & Safety Orientation Certificate** training plus **CPR & First Aid** training (if not currently certified). The new federal rules also require staff members who work in EXEMPT programs to complete Health & Safety Orientation and CPR & First Aid training. Child Care Services began monitoring for compliance on June 1, 2017. Following are important time frames:

- New staff members hired on or after October 1, 2016 must obtain the Health & Safety Orientation Certificate and CPR/First Aid training within 90 days of employment.
- Staff hired before October 1, 2016 must complete the Health & Safety Orientation Certificate training and CPR and First Aid training (if not currently certified) by **June 30, 2017**.
- Also, to comply with the federal requirements, we have made changes in the posting of inspections and other information. Licensing visit reports will now be posted on our website for up to five years from the date of the inspection. Revocation notices and other adverse action notices will also be posted for public viewing.

You and your staff can access a free online module for the Health & Safety Orientation Certificate through [Better Kid Care, Pennsylvania State University](#). Sign in to the OnDemand option, and then choose the module called "Georgia Health and Safety Orientation Training (for Georgia child care providers only)." You can also find additional training options at: [Health & Safety Orientation](#).

On May 22, 2017, Child Care Services hosted a webinar that covered the CCDF Monitoring Visits and it provided an overview for category #1 and #7 exempt programs receiving the CAPS subsidy. The webinar has been posted to the DECAL website and can be viewed on the Exemptions page, under the Documents list labeled, "[5/22/17 Webinar recording-CCDF Monitoring Visits: Overview for Exempt Programs and Informal Providers](#)."

For guidance, click the button below for the Health & Safety Standards. ↓

## [Exempt programs - Health & Safety Standards](#)



**Access to DECAL  
KOALA for online  
Criminal Records  
Check processing for  
Exempt Programs!**

**Additional information will be provided soon.**

On June 20, 2017 a letter was sent to programs in the DECAL database about employees who have a current satisfactory background check determination (based on a national fingerprint check), but still need to receive the **comprehensive** background check determination. All childcare employees who received this letter already have a **regular** "Sat" letter; however they need to **update** their information so that DECAL can issue a **comprehensive** "Sat" letter.

- **They do not need to fingerprint again at this time.** They need only to click on the link, submit their SSN and DOB and then update their application according to the instructions.
- DECAL will check the GA Child Abuse Registry and National Sex Offender Registry at **no additional cost for everyone who updates the application.**
- If anyone has lived in another state/territory/tribal land within the past five years, a check will need to be done through that state to search for criminal history and placement on that state's child abuse registry. **There will likely be additional costs**

associated with this part of the process. Instructionson how to procure these records from out of state will be sent July 1, 2017.

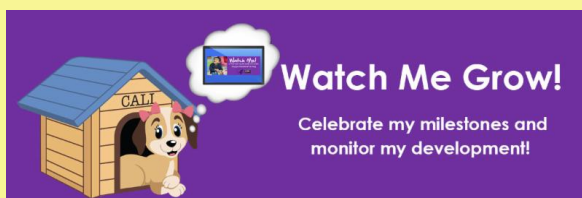
- A new letter will be issued to you and to employees. It will be called a “**ComprehensiveBackground Check Determination Letter,**” and it will replace theirclearance current letter. The current letter should suffice as adequatclearance until the new letter is issued, as long as it has not expired.
- Theseupdates must be submitted as soon as possible, but by no later than October 1,2017.

Contactthe Records Unit Help Desk at1-855-884-7444 or [CRCHelpDesk@decals.ga.gov](mailto:CRCHelpDesk@decals.ga.gov) should youneed additional assistance.

## Free Training!

DECAL recently launched the *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* initiative to help child care providers in Georgia better understanddevelopmental milestones and their role in monitoring children'sdevelopment. This initiative is in conjunction with the CDC's national *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* campaign. As a part of this initiative, a DevelopmentalMonitoring Intro Pack was mailed to approximately 5,400 licensed and exempt child care providersacross the state. The mailing targeted licensed andexempt providers serving children birth to age five. The intropack contains a letter from the Commissioner outlining the initiative, a one-page flyer with instructions for completing the trainingmodules and requesting a Developmental Starter Kit, and two Milestone Momentsbooklets, one in English and one in Spanish. The online training includes a series of four modules developed by the CDC that will allow providers to obtain one hour of training credit. There is also a fifth module developed by DECAL. For more information click the green button below.↓

## Developmental Milestones and Monitoring



**PAINTING  
FIREWORKS**



Child Care Services Exemptions Unit  
CCSExemptions@decals.ga.gov  
404/770-293-5977

**STAY CONNECTED and FOLLOW DECAL on Social Media**

