

CHILD SAFETY BLOG

PATRICK MALONE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
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Posted On: **October 12, 2010** by [Patrick A. Malone](#)

Florida child safety advocates ponder vehicle alarm law after death of infant in daycare van

Some child safety advocates in Florida are calling for special vehicle alarms following the death of a 2-year-old strapped and forgotten in her car seat for nearly 6 hours in the back of a Delray Beach daycare center van.

A few other states already have laws mandating that all vehicles from childcare providers that transport six or seven (depending on the state) or more passengers have a child safety alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect all seats before

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leaving. Mary Sachs, a state representative, said she will sponsor a bill next spring requiring the alarms in Florida.

The alarms work as follows: After the driver turns off the vehicle, an alarm goes off and continues to sound for one to four minutes, which forces the driver to walk to the back of the van to turn it off. If the driver ignores the alarm, an external car alarm sounds, thereby alerting others that the vehicle hasn't been checked.

While no one keeps specific data on how many children die from being left in childcare center vehicles, dozens of children die after being left in cars every year. According to Jan Null, an adjunct professor of meteorology at the University of San Francisco and author of "Hypothermia death of children in vehicles," 49 children have died forgotten in cars so far this year.

The driver of the van was charged with negligent manslaughter and the owners of the day care lost their license after losing more than \$200,000 in state funds following the incident.

Source: [The Palm Beach Post](#)

You'll find more information about deaths of children in vehicles from hypothermia [here](#).

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