



Dena Murphy  
Director

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## **JULY IS PURPLE RIBBON MONTH** Keeping kids safe in and around motor vehicles.

(Bakersfield, CA) – The Kern County Department of Human Services, with support from the Kern County Fire Department, Kern County Sheriff, Bakersfield Police Department and the California Highway Patrol, are once again launching “Purple Ribbon Month” in memory of Kaitlyn Marie Russell. “Kaitlyn’s Law,” passed in 2001, makes it a citable offense to leave children under the age of six unattended in a motor vehicle without the supervision of someone at least 12 years of age. This law is in honor of six-month-old Kaitlyn Marie Russell, who died on August 15, 2000, after she was left behind in a hot van by a caregiver.

Kern County dedicates July as Purple Ribbon Month in memory of Kaitlyn and all the children who have lost their lives to preventable injuries in and around cars. This month is an opportunity to increase public awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended in or around motor vehicles. **Already this year, four children have died due to hyperthermia in the United States.**

On July 1, the Kern County Department of Human Services will be providing this important information through virtual interviews with local media and sharing a safety demonstration on our social media sites, (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

Feel free to share content from any of our social media sites about this topic.

We encourage all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Kern County a safer place for children and families.

For more information, contact Jana Slagle at (661) 342-8054 or [slaglej@kerndhs.com](mailto:slaglej@kerndhs.com) or Ally Triolo at (661) 556-0376 or [trioloa@kerndhs.com](mailto:trioloa@kerndhs.com).

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Tel 661.631.6000 Fax 661.631.6631 TTY 800.735.2929  
100 E. California Avenue P.O. Box 511 Bakersfield, CA 93302 [www.KCDHS.org](http://www.KCDHS.org)

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