

Examples of Children Left in Cars at Casinos (not a complete list)

IL - A Chicago man left his 3 year old son in a van in a casino parking lot and headed for a 2 a.m. gambling cruise (Daily Southtown, December 3, 1997 Riverboat gambler allegedly left child in van, cops say).

CT - A RI woman was arrested after police discovered she had left 4 children unattended for 14 hours at Foxwoods Resort & Casino. The children were a 14 year old daughter, 9 year old niece, 7 and 6 year old nephews. She arrived at the casino at 3:30 p.m (Woman charged with leaving children in car at casino, The Day July 16, 2000).

ID- A Westville woman arrested last year for leaving her infant daughter in a car to gamble is being prosecuted again. Husband found his 15 month and 4 week old children home alone while his wife was at the casino gambling. (July 21, 2000, Woman charged again with leaving kids alone to gamble).

OR - A licensed day-care provider left three toddlers in a van at Spirit Mountain Casino while she gambled for 11 hours Thursday, authorities said. The two boys and a girl, ages 1, 2, and 3, were found soaked, soiled and dehydrated." (Statesman Journal, 9/15/01).

MT- Kalispell - A 27 year old mother allegedly left a 3 week old baby in the car for more than an hour while she gambled inside the casino, where the temperature outside topped 80 degrees. Kalispell - Missoulian News 7/11/02 Bigfork woman leaves baby in hot car).

IA- Man left his 10 year old daughter locked in a car while he gambled at Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino. A night security guard at the casino saw the child locked in a car which had the engine running at about 2:10 a.m. Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino (AP Dec. 24, 2002 Police say man left daughter in car while gambling).

WI- Milwaukee - A man was charged with leaving his 5 year old daughter alone in an unheated car in 5 degree weather while he gambled at Potawatomi Bingo Casino. She was in the car about 90 minutes. (Las Vegas Sun Jan. 28, 2003 Man charged with leaving girl in unheated car outside casino).

GA - A Georgia mother pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter after her 10-day-old baby died of dehydration in a sweltering parked car - while she played video poker for two hours at a South Carolina mini-casino. (New York Daily News, February 22, 2003).

IA- Parents of 2 small children left in a van at a casino pleaded guilty to child endangerment. Temperature was near 90 when security officers for the gaming boat found the children, ages 2 and 6, alone in a van inside the parking garage at the casino. Police estimate the children had been in the van for 30-40 min. before being found. (AP, Sept. 15, 2003 Gambling parents plead guilty of child endangerment).

MS - A Gulfport woman is in the Hancock County jail on felony child abuse charges after she allegedly left a 3-year-old relative in her car for about five hours while gambling at a local casino. (The Sun Herald, Mississippi, 11/17/03).

NV- A Las Vegas mother allegedly left her 3 year old daughter in the toy aisle of a grocery store while she gambled Wed., then when employees complained, the woman took the child to her car where she left the girl for more than an hour in midday heat while she continued to play slots. (Las Vegas Sun Oct. 7, 2004, "Police: Mom left child to play slots; Girl 3, taken to hot car after Vons workers spot her alone in toy aisle").

NV - Two children were rescued Friday afternoon from a sweltering vehicle by Budweiser delivery men who noticed them locked inside, crying and one of them bleeding in a casino parking lot. McDonald said when they looked inside the dark tinted windows of a GMC Jimmy they saw a little girl with her nose bleeding and a baby boy in a car seat "covered in sweat." Ernestina Leon, 44, was arrested on suspicion of two counts of gross misdemeanor child endangerment and neglect and two counts of misdemeanor leaving a child unattended in a vehicle. Leon was baby-sitting the children while their mothers worked. (["Children pulled from hot car"](#), April 29, 2006).

OK- A Keefeton woman was given probation after pleading guilty of leaving her 2 year old granddaughter locked in a pickup truck last August while she gambled inside a casino. (AP June 20, 2006 - Woman pleads guilty to leaving child in truck while gambling.)

IN - It was 9 degrees outside when the Keisha Clark, 24, left her 16-day-old infant, 2-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son in a car while she went into an East Chicago casino Feb. 19., police said. The infant was discovered unresponsive in the car about 1:30 p.m. that day, authorities said. The baby was successfully revived and two other children in the car were unharmed. (["Woman must take parenting classes"](#), Crown Point, Indiana, September 2, 2006).

NJ- A Camden County couple accused of leaving their 3 week old son alone in a car in a casino parking garage for several hours this weekend have been charged with child abuse and child endangerment. Security personnel at Caesars Atlantic City Hotel Casino found the child just before 1 a.m. Saturday after patrons reported seeing him in a backseat of the car. (19 & 21 year old parents were arrested when they returned to the car around 4 am). "Couple charged over child left in car", Sept. 4, 2006.

WI- Prosecutors have charged a Neenah woman with a misdemeanor count of child neglect after they say she left her nine month old child in her car while she gambled at a casino. (Oct. 31, 2006, "Prosecutors: Neenah woman left baby in car while gambling").

MN - A 4 year-old boy was left in a car unattended in subzero weather while his father gambled inside Mystic Lake Casino. The boy was suffering from mild hypothermia and faced dire physical consequences had he not been discovered, authorities said. Olson added that such incidents at Mystic Lake happen "a few times a year, but not all the time." A casino patron found

the boy wandering in the parking lot, police said. The temperature was minus 7 degrees with a minus 22- degree wind-chill at the time ("Father charged with endangering son", 2/9/07).

WA- A 4 month old girl sat alone in her car seat, locked in a Ford sedan behind the Palace Casino, while her parents gambled inside. (Child had been locked in the car for more than half an hour, temperature was 35 degrees) (March 22, 2007, "Infant left in car outside La Center cardroom; parents arrested", March 22, 2007).

WA- "Why is this such a big deal?", an Oregon mother asked La Center police while being arrested for allegedly leaving her 3 year-old son locked in her car for more than eight hours while she gambled at Chips Palace Casino ("Boy, 3, allegedly left in car 8 hours while Mom gambled" Seattle Times, May 26, 2010).

PA- A mother makes her two daughters (ages 16 and 8) wait in the car for over 6 hours, until after midnight while she played the slots inside Parx Casino. The mother said she had "lost track of time" (Aug 1, 2010, NBC Philadelphia). That same summer, a father is arrested after leaving his 15 month old son in the car, also at Parx Casino in Bensalem so he could use his \$10 free play voucher (and ended up staying for over an hour to play the slots) (Philadelphia Inquirer, June 15, 2010). This was only one of at least half a dozen similar incidents occurring at Parx Casino in 2010.

PA- As of August 2011, there have been 11 reported incidents of children left in cars at Parx Casino this year ("2 arrests after children found in car at casino", ABC Action News, August 1, 2011).

These stories are not unique to just the United States: Throughout the world, children are continually becoming victims to the predatory gambling interests that fuel their parents' addictions:

Tokyo, Japan - A six-month-old baby died in Japan after her mother left her in a car in the summer heat to play slot games and did not even return during a major earthquake, police said. Police arrested Saori Konno, 27, for allegedly causing her daughter's death by leaving her in the car without air conditioning for two and a half hours in the northern city of Ichinoseki. The mother was half an hour into her game when an earthquake registering 7.2 on the Richter scale hit, but she did not return to the car, a police spokesperson said. (["Gambling mom charged with baby's death"](#) August 18, 2005).

New Zealand - Pua Faumuina left her baby in her car at Sky City Casino's underground car park and took a lift up to the gaming floor, promising herself she would only spend a few minutes on the pokie Machines. More than three hours later she was still gambling and 7-week-old Neva - left unchecked in the suffocating heat of the car - was severely dehydrated. Ms Faumuina later tried to kill herself. ("Casino's pull and a near tragedy", NZ Herald, Dec 22, 2001).

Montreal, Canada - A couple has been fined \$85 for leaving an 11-month-old baby alone in a parked vehicle while they gambled at the *Montreal Casino*. ("Gamblers fined for leaving baby", Canio Limited Partnership, August 22, 2000).

