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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CORRECTIONS

LICENSING AND REGULATORY
AFFAIRS, C

TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION, VC

FINANCE

REGULATORY REFORM

Emergency Minor and Animal Rescue Act – SB 566

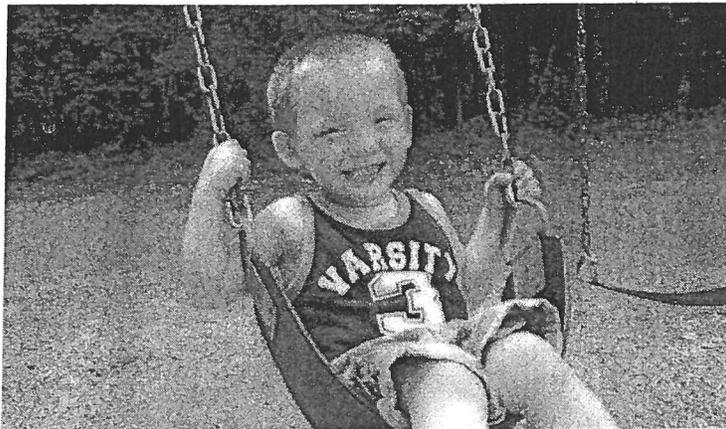
- Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for considering what the Senator thinks is a fairly straightforward bill, so I'll keep this quick.
- Since 1998, 10 children have died of heatstroke while being locked in a car in Michigan. 24 children died last year nationwide.
- You see in front of you, the story of one of those children:
 - James Nelson was a 2 year old boy from Shelby Township who was locked in a minivan for 11 hours
 - During that time, several 911 calls were made
 - By the time those calls were responded to and he was brought to the hospital it was too late
 - James died of heatstroke
 - It was only 73 degrees out on that day
- Right now, Michigan law doesn't *explicitly* protect people like the neighbors who called 911 instead of breaking the window of the minivan to save James' life
- This bill will mean that if you break into a car in order to save a the life of a child or pet you can't get sued for doing it, as long as you contact police before doing it and leave a note.
- With that, I'm happy to answer any of your questions.



Autopsy: Child Left In Van Died Of Heat Stroke

September 4, 2013 8:19 PM By Mike Campbell

Filed Under: child death, Macomb County, Shelby Township



James Everett Lawrence Nelson (Facebook photo)

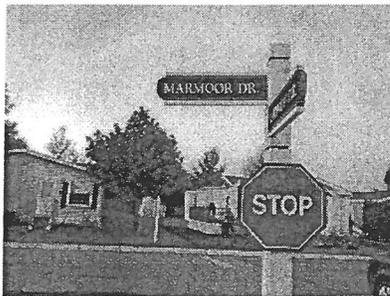
SHELBY TWP. (WWJ) – Heat stroke has been listed as the cause of death for a 2-year-old boy found left in a minivan outside a Macomb County home — for as many as 11 hours.



Shelby Township police responded to the Dequindre Estates Mobile Home Park, near Hamlin and Dequindre roads, around 6:10 p.m.

2 Tuesday after receiving several 911 calls about a child being left inside a vehicle.

Officers and EMS personnel arrived to find James Nelson unresponsive outside of a home on Marmoor Drive. The child was rushed to Troy Beaumont Hospital where he was pronounced dead.



(Credit: Mike Campbell/WWJ)

The van's windows were rolled up. Tuesday's high was about 73 degrees. He may have been in the van since 7 a.m. Tuesday.

An autopsy performed Wednesday listed hyperthermia as contributing to the boy's death.

It's unclear who was caring for James on Tuesday and who put him in the child's car seat.

His mother, 21-year-old Audrionna Rhoades, was at work Tuesday at a medical supply company in Oakland County. The boy often was left in the care of her roommate or Rhoades' parents who live nearby, Woelkers said.

"It could have been a baby sitter, the grandparents or the mother," Woelkers said.

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