



What to do if you see an animal or person locked in a hot car

If you break into a car to help a dog, cat or at-risk person, you might face criminal or civil charges. However, you could receive immunity if all the following conditions apply.

1. You have a reasonable belief that the person or animal is in imminent danger of death or serious injury.
2. You determine that the vehicle is locked, and forcible entry is necessary.
3. You make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or operator of the vehicle. This includes going into nearby businesses and making an announcement asking for the owner of the vehicle to come forward.
4. You document the color, make, model, license plate number and location of the vehicle.
5. You contact a local law enforcement agency, fire department or animal control agency—or you dial 911—before entering the vehicle. You must obey any lawful order given to you during this contact.
6. You use no more force than is reasonably necessary to enter the vehicle.
7. You remain with the vehicle until law enforcement or a first responder arrives. If you have to leave before that happens, you must place a notice on the windshield that includes your contact information and the contact information of the location where you took the person or animal. You must also contact law enforcement to advise them that you are leaving. You should only leave the scene if absolutely necessary or if you are taking the person or animal to the hospital, animal control or a veterinarian.

COLORADO HOUSE BILL 1179 APPLIES TO DOGS, CATS AND AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS (INFANTS, CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED). THE LAW DOES NOT APPLY TO K9 OFFICERS. DO NOT BREAK INTO A POLICE VEHICLE.
THE LAW TAKES EFFECT ON AUGUST 10, 2017.



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