



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Crystal Cardwell, Development Director

The Parenting Center

817-632-5515

[ccardwell@theparentingcenter.org](mailto:ccardwell@theparentingcenter.org)

**The Parenting Center cautions against leaving children in vehicles**

Fort Worth, Texas – March 13, 2014 –Regarding the high-speed pursuit that included the kidnapping of a young boy beginning in Longmont, Colo., Wednesday, March 12, 2014, The Parenting Center reminds North Texas of the dangers associated with leaving a child unattended in a vehicle and encourages caretakers to consider the consequences of this.

Ryan Stone, 28, stole Marta Rodriquez’s SUV from a gas station. Rodriquez left the SUV running with her 4-year-old son in the back seat while she quickly ducked into the store for some coffee, according to The Denver Post.

Suzanne Stevenson, The Parenting Center’s Family Life Education Program Manager, comments: “It is understandable how tempting it can be to leave a child in the car for just a few minutes, because of the hassle of car seats, or a sleeping child, but the reality is that leaving a child in a car without adult supervision is never a good idea. Young children cannot provide for their own safety, and even ‘just a minute’ can be a great danger.”

Bliss Coulter, The Parenting Center’s Family Life Educator, stated: “Unfortunately, there is an increase of children left in vehicles in the summer months. Child fatalities become more common due to increased temperatures, but we should carry caution all year long.”

**About The Parenting Center:**

The Parenting Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission of providing families the tools to succeed. The agency impacts over 16,000 individuals a year through its Family Life Education, Counseling, Case Management and Co-Parenting programs. To learn more about The Parenting Center’s dedication to safeguarding our children, please contact 817-632-5515 or visit [www.theparentingcenter.org](http://www.theparentingcenter.org).



[www.TheParentingCenter.org](http://www.TheParentingCenter.org)

2928 West Fifth Street • Fort Worth, Texas 76107 • 817-332-6348 • 817-332-6489 FAX