

**Southern Pines Police Department**  
**Safety Tips**  
*Motor Vehicle Theft*

While the theft of motor vehicles is not common, some occur because of our own carelessness. Motorists often leave their vehicles open and unlocked. Sometimes, they even leave the keys in the ignition and the car running. A thief waits for just such an opportunity! Imagine you leave your car running to go into a store or other public place “just for a minute”. Are you watching your car? Probably not. You’re thinking about your errand and rushing to get on with your day. Even if you can see your car through the store window, how will you stop a car thief that is some distance away from you as he or she hops into your car and takes off? By doing so you create an opportunity for a thief to steal your car and its’ contents. Some people even leave children unattended in the car, placing them unnecessarily in a dangerous situation. The driver taking this risk endangers the children and subjects him or herself to arrest on criminal charges. Don’t take the risk! Always park your car in a legal parking place, take your children and lock your car. Not only do you protect your little passengers, you protect your property and prevent a crime from taking place.

**For more information or a presentation on this topic, contact the Community Services Coordinator at (910) 692-2732.**