

Kids and Their Locked car

- Mom and her two kids were coming home from a community event. When they reached their car, mom realizes her keys are locked in the car – they can see them! The teenage son finds a coat hanger somewhere and starts working on getting the door open.
- Two officers were working the area after a large community block party. They had just received a dispatch call saying some kids were involved in illegal activity. As they rounded the corner, they see the teenager “breaking into a car” with others standing around.
- In a moment the officers had their guns pulled, shouting, “Don’t move!” Mom panicked, as she saw the gun pointed at her kids head! First, she was scared, then she was angry. Mom filed a complaint.
- They agreed to mediate. The officers explained how they’d gotten a call to respond to the area because of kids involved in illegal activity, the moms back was turned and they couldn’t tell she was ‘a mom’ and all they saw was a teenager trying to break into a car. Police policy and procedure says, “secure the scene” and then figure out what is going on. Before they even had a chance to say anything the mother went hysterical.
- The kids came to mediation. The officers talked with them, explained and established good rapport. Mom apologized for her behavior and some of the things she had said.
- The officer said he could understand her fear if someone, even an officer, pulled a gun on his kid. The family, including the kids was “resolved with the police”.