



**Media Contact**

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **UPDATED: HPD Investigating Hot Vehicle Deaths of Toddlers**

**HINESVILLE, Ga. (September 30, 2019)** – Hinesville Police Department (HPD) is currently working with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) regarding the deaths of two toddlers on Sunday, September 29.

At approximately 1:42 p.m. on Sunday, September 29, a 911 call was received stating that two children had been missing and were found unresponsive in a vehicle located in the backyard of a home in the Griffin Park neighborhood.

First responders arrived on scene shortly thereafter and discovered two toddlers inside the parked vehicle who were unresponsive. Upon further investigation, first responders determined that the children were deceased.

Once the determination had been made, HPD immediately began a death investigation. A perimeter was established and all individuals were removed from the home. Additionally, a search warrant for the home was obtained and GBI was contacted to assist with the investigation. A crime scene unit processed the scene with the assistance from GBI and the bodies of the children were removed from the scene and taken to the crime lab. Autopsies will be performed on Monday, September 30.

If you have any information regarding this case, please contact the Hinesville Police Department Detectives Unit at 912.368.8215. Please direct questions to Whitney Morris-Reed, Public Relations Manager, 912.408.3569 or [wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org).

#### **UPDATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1:**

The Hinesville Police Department is working to establish the timeline of events on Sunday, September 29 that led to the 911 call regarding two children found unresponsive inside a vehicle.

Earlier in the morning, the foster parent could not locate the children inside the home after searching. The search was expanded to the backyard and the surrounding area in the neighborhood. The foster parent returned to the home to resume the search and recheck the backyard. It was during this second search that the children were found unresponsive inside a vehicle parked in the home's backyard.



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The victims have been identified as Raelynn Keyes (born 11.29.2015) and Payton Keyes (born 11.30.2015).

Preliminary autopsy results by the Liberty County Coroner, Reginald Pierce, have established cause of death as heat stroke and have been deemed accidental. The autopsy was conducted at the GBI Crime Lab in Pooler on Monday, September 30. According to Pierce, finale results of the GBI report will be released after an investigation and autopsy report is completed.

**UPDATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2:**

Preliminary autopsy results by the Liberty County Coroner, Reginald Pierce, have been officially released and establish cause of death as heat stroke and have been ruled accidental. The autopsy was conducted at the GBI Crime Lab in Pooler on Monday, September 30. According to Pierce, finale results of the GBI report will be released after an investigation and autopsy report is completed.

Additional updates will be released as the investigation continues. If you have any information regarding this case, please contact the Hinesville Police Department Detectives Unit at 912.368.8215. Please direct questions to Whitney Morris-Reed, Public Relations Manager, 912.408.3569 or [wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org).

**ABOUT THE CITY OF HINESVILLE:**

The [City of Hinesville](http://cityofhinesville.org) was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people. For more information, visit [cityofhinesville.org](http://cityofhinesville.org).

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