As we proceed through the cold winter months the Delaware State Police would like to remind drivers NOT to leave their cars running with keys in the ignition and unattended. Not only is it illegal, but this practice has contributed to a recent increase in auto thefts. There are a few simple steps you can take to reduce the risk of losing your car to an opportunistic thief:

• STAY WITH THE CAR. It's better to be cold for a few minutes in your car while it warms up than to be left in the cold while the thief drives it away.

• LOCK THE DOORS. At all times when unoccupied.

• GET A REMOTE STARTER. Remote starters are the safest way to keep your car running while unattended. With the keys out of the ignition, a thief can’t even put the car in gear.

• And finally, NEVER leave children unattended in a vehicle, running or not.