Assignment 1. Trim 40 words from this wire story. In the margin, explain why you made the changes.

Assignment 2. Make any needed corrections in AP style, spelling and so on. Assume that Brighton is a city in your state.

Assignment 3. Rewrite the story as a 100-word brief.

BRIGHTON—Knowing she would be gone only a couple of minutes, Dolores Effron left her 7-month-old granddaughter locked in car in Wednesday afternoon’s 90-degree heat. When she returned, she discovered she had left her keys in the car’s ignition.

Panicking, she called 911 and asked for help.

The dispatcher’s response? There’s nothing police can do.

The grandmother was told that police are no longer allowed to use special devices to unlock car doors.

She should call a locksmith or AAA.

“I couldn’t believe it,” said an angry Dolores Effron.

“The dispatcher said the best she could do was to send a police officer out,” Effron said. “But the officer couldn’t help me. He could just stand there and watch me break a window or something and get Jody out of the car.”

Effron’s ordeal began when she left the infant in the car while she ran into a fast food restaurant on S. Main St. at about 2 p.m. Wednesday. “I had called-in my order like I do all the time. They already had it in a sack for me. I wasn’t in the place more than 2 minutes.” When she returned, she saw her keys still in the ignition of the locked car.

A few minutes after talking to the 911 operator, Effron flagged down a Logan County sheriff’s deputy, and he called the Brighton Fire Rescue Department on his car radio.

Firefighters arrived a few minutes later to find Jody crying hysterically.

They used a special center punch to break the glass without hurting the baby. The tool causes glass to shatter downward instead of into the car’s interior.
The baby's clothes were soaked with sweat when she was removed from the car. She was taken to University Hospital. Doctors treated her for dehydration and kept her overnight for observation.

"We were pretty lucky," Fire Rescue Captain Jose Martinez said. "On a hot day like Wednesday, if that baby had been in the car for, say, 10 minutes longer, it would have been a critical situation. Baby's bodies are small and they don't hold much water. Their cooling mechanism can be quickly overtaxed."

Police Chief Bruce Dodge said the 911 operator had not followed proper procedures. He said an officer should have been sent to the scene and determined what course of action should have been taken.

Dodge said he has ordered an investigation and placed the dispatcher, Suzanne Duncan, who has answered 911 calls for 5 years, on suspension.

"We handle calls like this everyday of the week," Dodge said. "We have locked cars and children are often in them. We always send officers out. I don't know what happened in this case."

Effron said she hopes Dodge is right. "I am interested that they do training and make sure that every operator knows what to do when a child is in jeopardy."