



MEDIA RELEASE

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles • Carolyn Williams, Registrar
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OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ted Strickland, Governor Cathy Collins-Taylor, Director

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OHIO'S NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY MARKS TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

- With summer travel period approaching, Ohioans encouraged to register N.O.K. information -

COLUMBUS – As Ohio's Next of Kin Registry marks its two year anniversary, state officials are encouraging more Ohioans to register vital Next of Kin information that is used by law enforcement authorities to contact family members in the event of an emergency situation involving a loved one.

In May 2008, Ohio became one of the first states to make a Next of Kin registration process available through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Since its establishment through legislation approved by Ohio's General Assembly, more than 131,000 Ohioans have signed up for next of kin registration.

"With the busy summer travel period and trauma season approaching, we are reminding Ohioans that this database exists as a tool to provide timely notification to family members in the event of a serious motor vehicle crash," said Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles Carolyn Williams.

"Ohio's Next of Kin Registry allows law enforcement authorities to make timely notification of next of kin during an emergency situation where seconds and minutes are critical. This is yet another way we can all work together to be prepared to respond to any emergency."

Any holder of a valid Ohio driver license, commercial driver license, temporary permit or state of Ohio identification card has the option of providing the name and information of a contact person they wish to be notified in the event the individual is involved in a crash or emergency and is otherwise unable to communicate with the contact person.

Ohioans can provide next of kin information for up to two contacts online or through any BMV deputy registrar. For those over the age of 18, the contact person can be a nearby relative, friend or co-worker. Those under the age of 18 are required to provide a parent or guardian for the primary contact. This secure database will only be accessible to BMV employees and law enforcement officials.

For more information on the Next of Kin registration process, log onto the BMV Web site at www.bmv.ohio.gov.

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