Legislation to create the Ohio Next of Kin (N.O.K) database was initiated by Ohioans who wanted to ensure Next of Kin can be notified as soon as possible if an emergency or any critical event occurs.

**N.O.K. Program Initiators**

**Linda Wuestenberg**

“My son, Steven Burge, was involved in a car accident in 2007. First responders searched eight hours before they found me. My son died from his injuries. A large group of us worked with our legislators and the BMV to create the Ohio Next of Kin database. The effort invested to make this valuable tool available to all Ohio citizens has been a deeply personal and emotionally draining journey. I do it in loving memory of my son to honor his exuberant love of life. I’m proud to be your Mom, Stevie B.”

**Carmela A. Wiant**

“My son, David Money, was on his way home from work when involved in an auto accident. The only source of contact information was his work badge. Three hours later, I was told by the hospital chaplain David was dead. I was devastated. There is never an easy way to notify someone of a loved one’s death from an accident. Please list your emergency contacts on your driver license, so police can expeditiously locate your family. David, I’m so proud you are my son.”

Once your Next of Kin information is on file, you may change or remove it using any of the above methods.
The Next of Kin (N.O.K.) program allows Ohioans with a driver license, temporary permit, or state ID the option of adding emergency contact information to their Ohio driver license/ID record. The program features are:

- It’s free! There is no fee to add contact information to your driver license/permit/ID record.
- Contact information will be stored in a secure database which holds Ohio driver license/ID information, accessed only by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and law enforcement.
- For Ohioans age 18 and older, the contact person can be a relative, friend, or co-worker.
- Those under age 18 are required to have a parent or legal guardian as their primary contact.
- With your approval, contact person(s) can share your up-to-date medical information with medical professionals providing emergency medical treatment, if you are ever involved in an emergency or otherwise unable to communicate.
- For children under the age of 15, with an ID, parents are encouraged to sign up for the Next of Kin Registry. Two emergency contacts can be added into the Next of Kin Registry to be used by law enforcement in the event the child becomes lost or is reported missing. If the child is ever involved in an emergency situation or otherwise unable to communicate, law enforcement will use the Next of Kin information to notify these emergency contacts. For more information regarding child IDs, visit bmv.ohio.gov.

You can now list members of the military as emergency contacts, with their Army Post Office (APO) or Fleet Post Office (FPO) addresses accepted.

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