

Gamble Hartshorn, LLC

OHIO'S EMERGENCY CONTACT REGISTRATION

One of the many difficulties faced by emergency services personnel is how to locate next of kin or obtain necessary information from a victim of a serious injury who is unable to communicate with paramedics. Even if the victim is carrying some form of identification those items usually do not provide information about how to get in touch with family or friends. On Monday, September 8, the State of Ohio launched a new registration system which hopefully will make it easier for emergency service personnel to contact family and friends of an individual who has had a serious accident. The new registration system allows registered Ohio drivers to provide emergency contact information to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The goal is to aid law enforcement agents and paramedics contact family members or friends of individuals who have been in a serious accident and are killed or too seriously injured to provide any information.

The next-of-kin database was created by lawmakers in early 2008 after many families were not notified of a loved one's accident and subsequent death until hours later.

The next-of-kin database allows licensed Ohio drivers to provide the name, address, telephone number and relationship of two emergency contacts. This information is not public record and may only be used by law enforcement in the event an individual is killed or seriously injured or otherwise unable to communicate.

If you are interested in registering please visit our State's BMV website at www.bmv.ohio.gov and complete the online registration.

A less formal way of helping emergency service personnel contact your loved ones is by using the acronym ICE (in case of emergency) in front of your emergency contacts on your cell phone. This allows you to designate who you would want emergency service personnel to contact in case you are ever in a serious accident.

If you have any questions or concern please call either Eric Gamble or Nora Jones at 614-221-0922.

<p>The articles in this publication are intended to convey general information and are not meant to be comprehensive. Gamble Hartshorn, LLC is not rendering legal advice to you by providing this information.</p>
