

# Next of kin information can be placed Sept. 8

Starting Sept. 8, emergency contact information can be placed on driver's licenses in Ohio.

This spring, Ohio officially became the second state to link next of kin information with a driver's license.

Gov. Ted Strickland signed a bill that creates a statewide database for the information, with participation being voluntary.

Ohioans will be asked for contact information for at least one person when they visit a Bureau of Motor Vehicles office.

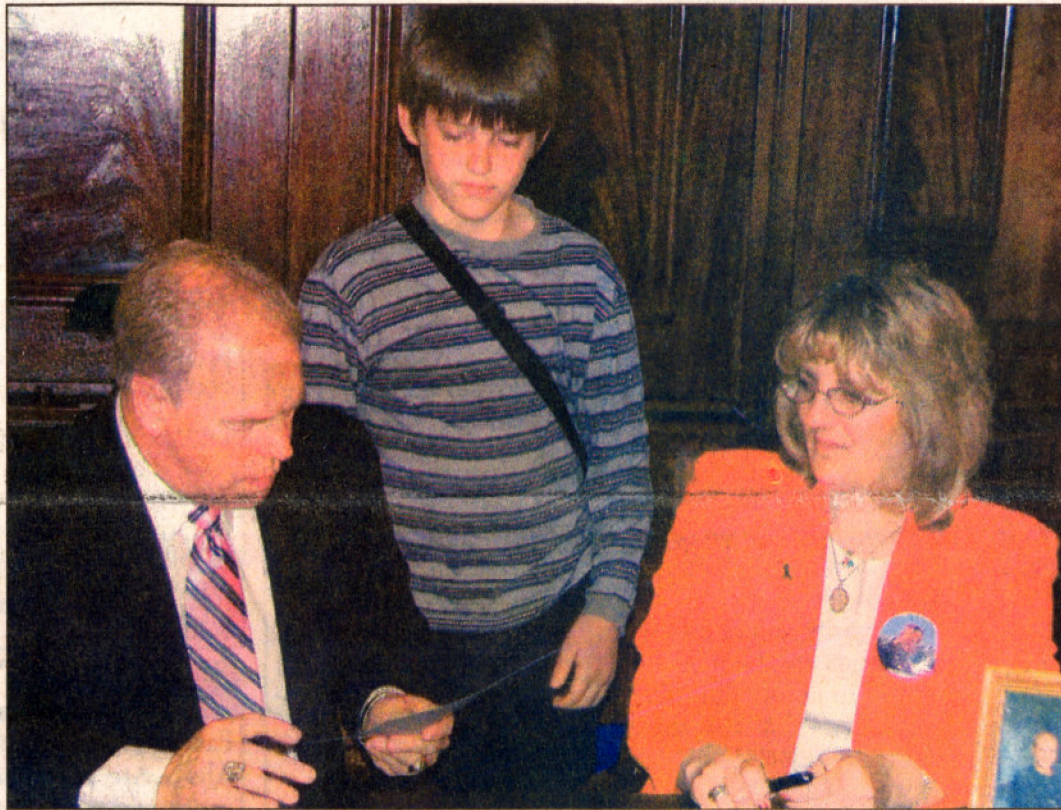
A Mechanicsburg woman, Carmela Wiant, was instrumental in the passage of the bill. She lost her son, David Money, in a car crash on Aug. 7, 2006.

Wiant and Linda Wuestenberg, mother of accident victim "Stevie B." Burge worked with state Sen. Keith Faber and state Rep. Jim McGregor to get the bill developed.

Both Wiant and Wuestenberg said there was a gap of hours between the time of the crashes that killed their sons and the notification to them by law enforcement.



**Money**



**SIGNING:** Carmela Wiant (right), mother of David Money, and David's "best buddy" David Harvey watch as Gov. Ted Strickland signs the bill for emergency contact information. (Submitted by Carmela Wiant)

**"I started the bill with Senator Faber April 2007 and it passed exactly one year from the day I started, April 2008."**

**-CARMELA WIANT**

"I started the bill with Senator Faber April of 2007 and it passed exactly one year from the day I started April 2008," Wiant said. "Governor Strickland signed the bill May 1, 2008."

Wiant said people may start Sept. 8 to put contact information on the driver's license by calling in, stopping in or doing it online. A person doesn't have to wait until the time of license renewal to do so, she said.

Wiant said her son David loved baseball and played for 14

years. He had talked to the Columbus Clippers about what it takes to "get into the (Cincinnati) Reds."

"Which that week he was going there to interview with them," she said.

Wiant and other friends of her son were present for the signing of the bill by the governor.

Residents can register this information online at [www.bmv.ohio.gov](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov) or at a deputy registrar's office.