



MEDIA RELEASE

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles • Mike Rankin, Registrar
www.ohiobmv.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Lindsey Bohrer, Public Information Officer
(614) 752-6585

May 25, 2011

PARENTS ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN STATE IDs FOR KIDS

Ohio BMV Educates Parents About Tool to Help Keep Kids Safe as Part of National Missing Children's Day, May 25

COLUMBUS – When a child is reported missing, the first few minutes and hours are crucial. Parents must have accurate and current information about the child, including photographs. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is working to let parents know there are tools available to quickly find a child that is reported abducted or missing.

The BMV can issue state identification (ID) cards, which include a digital photograph, to children of any age. The photograph and information on a state ID can be quickly accessed by law enforcement if a child is reported missing or abducted. When a state ID is issued, the photos become part of a statewide Operator's License/Identification database and can be readily accessed by law enforcement officials through the Ohio Attorney General's secure web site, the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway.

"Having an identification card on record can be an invaluable tool in the safe recovery of a child and the Ohio BMV encourages all parents to bring their children to one of our more than 200 locations statewide to get a state ID card." said Ohio BMV Registrar Mike Rankin.

There are a number of resources available in the search for missing children. A state-issued ID card with an electronically accessible digital photo can get accurate information into the hands of law enforcement, the media, and the public in a quick and efficient manner. When the initial report of a missing or abducted child is made, his or her state ID photo can be transmitted to police departments and media outlets statewide. If necessary, within minutes, the digital photo can also be sent to sheriff's departments, Ohio State Highway Patrol cruisers, the Ohio Missing Children's Clearinghouse, Ohio AMBER Plan, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and police departments and media outlets across the country. A state ID can also protect against the increasing problem of a child's identity being stolen.

A BMV-issued state ID card costs only \$8.50 and is good for up to four years. Parents of very young children may want to renew photos annually. Additional information is available on the Ohio BMV web site: www.bmv.ohio.gov. The web site also lists important information regarding what documents parents or guardians must bring for themselves and their children to prove their identity when applying for a state ID card.

###