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GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST PROCLAIMS REGISTER YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION WEEK

~ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles partners with TIFF's Initiative ~

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist has proclaimed Oct. 4-10 as Register Your Emergency Contact Information (ECI) Week in Florida. ECI is an award-winning program operated by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and allows Florida driver license and identification card holders to voluntarily register their emergency contact information. The information can then be accessed only by law enforcement officers to find designated contacts in the case of an emergency. To date, more than 2.6 million Floridians have enrolled in the ECI program.

The concept for the ECI program came about after the tragic death of Tiffiany Olson who died in a motorcycle crash in 2005. Law enforcement did not have any contact information to timely notify her mother Christine Olson of the crash which led to her daughter's death. Christine Olson founded *TIFF's (To Inform Families First) Initiative*, and with the help of her local lawmaker, Representative Bill Galvano, brought an idea to the Department to allow people to register and law enforcement to access emergency contacts so that other loved ones might not have to suffer as she did.

As a part of this special week, Christine Olson and Department representatives will be joined by Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp to promote the program as he throws out the first pitch at the final home game of the Tampa Bay Rays this Sunday, Oct. 4.

“ECI is a great example of turning tragedy into triumph, and *TIFF's Initiative* continues to play an integral role in our efforts to educate Floridians about this important service,” said new DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones. “The recognition provided by Governor Crist and Lt. Governor Kottkamp further illustrates their commitment to all aspects of public safety, and I encourage each Florida driver license and ID card holder to log onto www.flhsmv.gov/eci today to register their emergency contacts. It takes only a minute to give your loved ones peace of mind.”

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

REGISTER YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION WEEK

WHEREAS, the State of Florida Emergency Contact Information registration has proven to be a highly effective way to enhance the lives of Floridians by providing critical information to law enforcement officers during emergency situations since inception in October 2006; and

WHEREAS, To Inform Families First, *TIFF*, was created by Christine Olson to assist law enforcement officers with notifying loved ones when emergencies strike. Ms. Olson brought forth the idea that ultimately developed into the ECI program after losing her daughter, Tiffany, in a fatal motorcycle crash in 2005. Olson wanted to establish a means for law enforcement officers to quickly notify parents of emergency circumstances involving their children; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Emergency Contact Information program allows all individuals with a valid Florida driver license or identification card to voluntarily provide emergency contact information online at www.flhsmv.gov/eci, or when applying for a driver license or identification card; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Contact Information registration through the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has provided valuable information to all branches of law enforcement in critical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University recognized Florida's Emergency Contact Information program as one of the 2009 Top 50 Government Innovations in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and *TIFF* have joined together to encourage all licensed drivers and identification card holders in the State of Florida to register their information, which is stored in a secured database used only by law enforcement agencies in the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, more than 2.6 million Floridians have registered their Emergency Contact Information as of September 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 4 – 10, 2009 as **Register Your Emergency Contact Information Week**.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 30th day of September, in the year two thousand nine.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charlie Crist".

Governor