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Cordray Hails System for Rescue of 12 Ohio Children *2009 results reviewed as National AMBER Alert Awareness Day is observed*

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — In 2009, 12 abducted Ohio children were found safely as a result of AMBER Alerts. These children, ranging in age from 8 months to 9 years old, were in imminent danger of serious injury or possible death. As the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children observes National AMBER Alert Awareness Day today, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray is urging Ohioans to make use of a new service: wireless AMBER Alerts that will further expand the system's reach and assist local law enforcement.

“Since the statewide inception of the system in 2002, we have issued AMBER Alerts in 116 cases, resulting in the safe return of 113 children,” said Cordray. “This success is due to participation of the general public. With the advent of social networking, the future of this system holds even more promise. I strongly urge Ohioans to make it a point today to sign up for these text message alerts in order to help local law enforcement.”

To sign up for wireless AMBER Alerts click here or go to: www.wirelessamberalerts.org/index.jsp.

“When a child becomes missing in the state of Ohio, multiple forces come into action to assist in the safe recovery of that child,” said Mark Patchen, chairperson of the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee. “Ohio now participates in a wireless notification program where the public can sign up to receive AMBER Alert notifications to their personal cell phones.”

In 2009, AMBER Alerts were issued through local law enforcement in Champaign, Clark, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, Morrow, Trumbull and Wood counties. Each alert met the following criteria:

- The abducted child was under 18 years of age.
- The abduction posed a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
- The child was not a runaway and had not been abducted as a result of a child custody dispute, unless the dispute posed a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death.
- There was sufficient descriptive information about the child, the abductor and the circumstances surrounding the abduction to indicate an alert would help in locating the child.

For more information about AMBER alerts and the Ohio Attorney General's Missing Children Clearinghouse, go to www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.