

PROGRAMS THAT WILL NOTIFY A DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL TO BE YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

In the State of Florida, there are two means of notifying your emergency contacts should you be unable to do so for yourself. Emergency Medical and Law Enforcement personnel can do so through two programs. One Program is known as the “ICE” Program (In Case of Emergency) and the other is known as “ECI” (Florida Emergency Contact Information).

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2006 that 1,600,000 emergency room patients could not provide contact information because they were incapacitated.
- In 44 states, hospitals have no legal obligation to call your next of kin or emergency contact if you arrive at the hospital unconscious or physically unable to speak for yourself or give informed consent.
- Nearly 200,000 people die each year due to misdiagnosis or medical error – a direct result of lack of information regarding medical history and medical conditions.
- A week after 9-11, there were 2,100 unclaimed children in child care centers all over New York because day-care workers had no emergency contact information in case the parents didn’t arrive to pick them up.

The Ice Program is a global campaign that started in the UK in 2005. **You should program an In Case of Emergency contact (or ICE for short) into your cell phone. You may program more than one individual as a contact.**

1. Choose a responsible person. Add this contact as a new entry, with their phone number, in your mobile phone address book under the heading “ICE”. Example: ICE1 – Mom and if providing more than one, ICE2 – husband.
2. Inform your ICE Contact that you have chosen them as your designated contact and provide them with information that may affect your treatment i.e. list of current medications you are taking, allergies to any medications, and the names and phone numbers of doctors or other medical providers responsible for your regular care.
3. Apply the ICE sticker to the back of your mobile phone (if you do not have one, try your local Fire Station). This will serve both as a visual alert for and an invitation to emergency responders that you have established a communication protocol.

The ECI Program is a program sponsored by the State of Florida. It is done via the internet by going to www.flhsmv.gov and entering your emergency contact information. The system allows Floridians to voluntarily provide emergency contact information online, giving law enforcement immediate access to this information and making it easier for them to speak with someone sooner in cases of an emergency. Only law enforcement personnel will have access to your emergency contact information. This information will not be used for any other purpose.