

To: All County and Municipal Elected Officials

From: Adela Acosta, Governor Ehrlich's Director of Intergovernmental Relations

In August, Governor Ehrlich announced the Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland (S.O.C.E.M.) Initiative. The initiative incorporates the following components: Victim and Family Assistance, Penalties and Monitoring, Support for Law Enforcement, AMBER Alert Text-Messaging, Parole and Probation Verification, Law Enforcement Coordination, and Legislation.

The AMBER Alert system notifies the general public, via overhead highway signage and radio and television alerts, when a child is abducted. In addition to these systems, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, has developed a cell phone text-messaging system for AMBER Alerts. This service is free to anyone who wishes to participate.

On August 20, 2005, Governor Ehrlich directed that all State-owned cell phones be enabled to receive AMBER Alert text-messaging. We are the first state in the country to take this action. I am pleased to report that as of today, all 8,000 State-owned cell phones are able to receive these messages. This single directive added an additional 8,000 pairs of eyes in the event of an AMBER Alert. Imagine how much safer our children would be if we, working together, could convince all Marylanders to participate.

Governor Ehrlich asks that you join his Administration and direct that all cellular phones within your control are enabled to receive free AMBER Alert text-messaging. Working together, in the event of an AMBER Alert in our area, we can ensure that the maximum pair of eyes are helping avoid a tragedy for a child and a family.

Please see the attached instructions for activating this text-messaging feature.

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MARYLAND
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BUDGET & MANAGEMENT

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Secretary

September 7, 2005

TO: All State Agency Chief Information Officers

From: Ellis L. Kitchen - State Chief of Information Technology

Governor Ehrlich recently announced the Sex Offenders Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland (SOCEM) initiative. An important component of this initiative is the Amber Alert system. The Governor has requested that all State provided cellular telephones, that are equipped for text messaging, also be programmed to receive Amber Alert messages.

The Cellular Telephone Industry Association (CITA) has established a Website to facilitate activation. Amber Alert service is provided at no cost to the State.

It takes approximately two minutes per telephone to establish this feature.

The activation process is:

1. Go to Website <https://www.wirelessamberalerts.org/index.jsp>.
2. Enter the cellular telephone number
3. Click on accept the terms and conditions
4. Click on create subscription
5. Enter a password. It will accept the last four digits of the telephone number, which is easy to remember. You may use any other password that you prefer.
6. Enter a ZIP code for Maryland. Any Maryland ZIP code will provide statewide Amber Alert notification. You may enter up to five ZIP codes. Consider adding adjacent jurisdictions with the four remaining ZIP code fields. For example; 20036 Washington D.C., 22209 Virginia, 17101 Pennsylvania and 19801 Delaware.
7. Click on submit.
8. You should receive activation confirmation on your cellular telephone.