

## **Automated notification to aid crime victims Inmate tracking system planned People can be called, e-mailed about status**

**By Deanna Martin  
Associated Press**

INDIANAPOLIS -- An automated system that could be running by April would help crime victims and others track the status of inmates in Indiana jails or prisons, including whether they have been released.

The Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Service, or SAVIN, will automatically call or e-mail victims or others who want to be notified about inmates' whereabouts.

Real-time notices could be sent if convicts change facilities, have upcoming parole hearings or otherwise change status.

Gov. Mitch Daniels said 25 other states have such automated systems.

"This is an important step forward," he said.

Under the current victim notification system, people can call local officials to track offenders. But it can sometimes be a frustrating process because there is not a single place to go for the information, said Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue.

Donahue said the new system would link counties with the state to provide easy-to-access information.

"You'll have a one-stop shop," Donahue said.

Using the new system, people will be able to call a phone number or use the Internet to sign up for notifications. The system would call people's home, work or cell phone numbers, or send them e-mails.

The service will be offered in both English and Spanish, officials said, and crime victims can remain anonymous.

Indianapolis already uses an automated victim notification system, which it launched in 1997. Last year, more than 20,000 telephone or e-mail notifications were sent through the system.

The statewide system is scheduled to begin in April, but full implementation will not be complete until 2008.



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Gov. Mitch Daniels announced a new system to help victims receive notification of inmates' whereabouts and release dates. He was joined by state Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue, center, and Knox County Sheriff Steve Luce.

(By Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, The Courier-Journal)

The state received \$1.25 million in federal funding and provided about \$950,000 in matching funds to pay for the system.