

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Indiana SAVIN, Indiana's Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System Celebrates One Year Anniversary

Indianapolis, April 21, 2008 - National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 13-19, marks the one year anniversary of the implementation of Indiana SAVIN, Indiana's Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification system. The system, originally launched in April 2007, is available to Indiana residents to track the custody status of offenders in Department of Correction and county jail facilities.

Indiana SAVIN allows crime victims and other concerned citizens to call a toll-free number or log onto the web to receive real-time information about the custody status of offenders held in a jail or prison. Users can also register to be notified by phone or e-mail when an offender is released, transferred, or escapes from custody. Live operators are available to assist callers who need help obtaining offender information or registering for notification. The service is FREE to the public. The public can register for the system by calling 866.959.8463 or by logging onto www.vinelink.com. Indiana SAVIN is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and callers may remain anonymous when using the service.

Indiana SAVIN is currently available in 31 Indiana counties and in the Department's 21 adult correctional facilities. The program will be implemented over a two-year period with the remaining 61 counties joining the system by the end of 2008. Doug Gosser, Executive Director of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association, said "There are numerous benefits of Indiana SAVIN for Hoosiers. Most importantly, the service gives crime victims and their families a simple, anonymous way to track when an offender is getting out of jail so they are aware and can take steps to remain cautious and alert for their own safety. The Association supports this valuable program and looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Indiana Department of Correction". Since the launch of Indiana SAVIN, 16,336 phone and email notifications have been made and 119,326 searches for offender information have been completed. Information on approximately 50,000 incarcerated offenders is available in the system.

The Department has distributed television and radio PSAs highlighting Indiana SAVIN efforts to media outlets around the state. "We are asking Indiana's television and radio stations to begin airing the Indiana SAVIN PSAs during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, but we are also encouraging them to continue these efforts throughout the year," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "While implementation of the system will be completed by the end of 2008, the public awareness campaign will be ongoing. It is our goal to reach every citizen in the state about this potentially life-saving service."

To learn more about Indiana SAVIN, please contact Brent Myers, the Department's Director of Registration and Victim Services at 317.233.8648 or by email at bmyers@idoc.in.gov.

Background

Governor Mitch Daniels announced plans to launch Indiana SAVIN in January 2007. The program is being funded through a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. Indiana received \$1.25 million in federal funding to develop the program and is matching federal funding through efforts of the Department and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

About the Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adults and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum security, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page can be accessed at www.in.gov/indcorrection.

Media Contact:

Douglas S. Garrison

Chief Communications Officer

Office of the Commissioner

Indiana Department of Correction

317-232-5780 (office)

317-903-7045 (cellular)

dsgarrison@doc.in.gov