

For Immediate Release
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Idaho becomes 24th state to launch VINE
All 44 counties to be on line in 2008

Louisville, Ky. – The Idaho Department of Correction is moving ahead with plans to launch a statewide program to keep crime victims and their families informed on the custody status of their offenders. VINE® (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) is an automated service that provides real-time information, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Users can call a toll-free number, 1-866-9VINE-ID (866-984-6343) or log onto www.vinelink.com to find out if an offender is in jail or prison. They can also register to be notified automatically when an offender is released, transferred, or escapes. Live operators assist victims who need help obtaining offender information or registering for notification. Technical support professionals monitor and maintain the network to ensure high reliability and availability. The service is free to the public.

“We see this valuable service as another way to help victims of crime,” said Bruce Gordon, victim services coordinator for the Idaho Department of Correction. “I think society now understands the trauma that a victim actually experiences.”

Idaho was one of 15 states to receive funding from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to launch new statewide automated victim information and notification (SAVIN) programs and expand existing programs. The BJA has provided \$17 million in SAVIN grants with the explicit goal of bringing as many states as possible into a National Victim Notification Network.

“As always, we are glad to see another state provide this life-saving service to victims and their families,” said Mike Davis, president of Appriss, provider of the VINE service. “VINE is an extension of the many wonderful programs now offered to victims in Idaho.”

The Idaho DOC implemented VINE in 2003, offering custody status information on offenders housed in DOC facilities. The service was launched in Ada and Bannock counties in 2001 and 2004. The expanded service will track offenders held in jails throughout the state’s 44 counties.

“VINE has proven to be very popular for those seeking information on offenders,” said Gordon. “We’ve received tremendous response about VINE and wanted to share it with the rest of the state.”

Gordon recently unveiled the new statewide VINE service at the “Two Days in June” annual crime victim assistance conference in Boise.

About Appriss

Appriss provides innovative technology solutions that help governments serve and protect their citizens. Other innovative products and services include VINE Protective Order®, which automatically notifies petitioners when protective orders are served on respondents; JusticeXchange®, the leading solution for connecting criminal justice agencies nationwide; and AlertXpress®, a high-speed notification solution for government agencies. The company’s newest product, Methcheck™, is an automated tool that allows law enforcement to monitor purchases of pseudoephedrine, one of the components in the manufacture of methamphetamine, and to “watch” specific individuals who exceed the legal limits imposed by state law.

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