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**Offender Alerting tool helps communities reduce failure-to-appear rates**  
*New feature added to VINE Courts Service*

**Louisville, Ky.** — An innovative new feature of the nation’s leading court notification system will reduce offender failure-to-appear rates and help government agencies save time and money.

VINE Courts is a fully automated service that provides victims and other interested parties with access to court information via telephone or Web portal. A new Offender Accountability Alerting feature of the VINE Courts service alerts and reminds offenders of their required presence at upcoming court dates. The messages to offenders may also include penalty language and the consequences of not appearing at the event, such as driver’s license suspension. VINE Courts links to current case information obtained automatically from court management systems to generate automated outbound phone messages, and also allows manual entry of new and updated contact information.

Offender Alerting was introduced to help solve a growing problem for the nation’s courts, which are being inundated with an ever-increasing number of cases and no-show offenders, known in the field as “failure to appear.” A research study evaluating the effectiveness of the same technology and alerting service to offenders used in King County, Washington reported a reduction in the county’s failure-to-appear rate between 18 and 75 percent, depending on the offender’s charges and method of notification.

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“Many court personnel, police, prosecutors, and public resources are involved in the preparation and hearing process. When an offender is a no-show, it costs the community additional time and money to process an arrest warrant, serve and house the defendant, and reschedule the court date. With failure-to-appear rates reaching double digits in some parts of the country, this becomes a tremendous cost burden on local and state budgets,” said Dr. Jeni Gamble, director of VINE Court and Protective Order services for Appriss. “Implementing the VINE Courts Offender Alerting feature will result in fewer no-shows, fewer delays and continuances, greater efficiency, and lower costs.”

#### **About Appriss**

Appriss provides innovative technology solutions that help thousands of local, state, and Federal government agencies serve and protect their citizens. Its flagship product, VINE®, keeps crime victims informed on the custody or court status of their offender in more than 2,300 communities across the country. Other innovative services include VINE Protective Order® which alerts individuals when a protective order has been served; JusticeXchange®, the leading solution for connecting criminal justice agencies nationwide; and MethCheck®, which works with both law enforcement and pharmacies to address the illegal meth lab problem.

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