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Crime Victims Get Help With Enhancement Of Old System

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Crime victims and other concerned citizens throughout the state now have access to information about more than 40,000 probationers and parolees supervised by the Arkansas Department of Community Correction (DCC). This information is available on probationers convicted of sexual or violent offenses and all parolees through VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday).

Provided by the Arkansas Crime Information Center, VINE also offers timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders whether they are in county jails, in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) as inmates, or assigned to the DCC as parolees or probationers, 24 hours a day — over the telephone, through the Internet, or by e-mail.

Probation and parole information provided by Arkansas VINEâ includes changes in supervising offices, absconders, apprehension of absconders and their return to custody, and the incarceration of technical violators. (Technical violators are offenders under supervision of the DCC who commit offenses serious enough to require incarceration, but not serious enough to have their parole or probation revoked and be returned to the DCC.)

To access VINEâ, crime victims and other concerned citizens in Arkansas call a toll-free number, 1-800-510-0415, and using a touch-tone phone, enter the offender's name or offender identification number. Users can also register to be notified of a change in an offender's custody or court status by entering a four-digit personal identification number. Offender information can also be obtained online by clicking on the following link = www.vinelink.com.

The Arkansas VINEâ program is a joint effort between the Arkansas Department of Correction, the Arkansas Department of Community Correction, and the Arkansas Crime Information Center. In 1999, Arkansas became the second state in the country to launch the automated service. Since that time, the system has provided information on offenders in the custody of county jails and the Department of Correction, as well as court status through the prosecuting attorney's office. "The VINEâ and JusticeXchangeâ programs have been tremendous assets to the Arkansas Crime Information Center" said Charles Pruitt, ACIC Director. "We are excited to be able to once again work with DCC in enhancing our existing programs to continue in our efforts to provide needed information to the state's criminal justice community and enhance the safety of our citizens."

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DCC's Director David Guntharp agrees, noting that this is a tool that will benefit the people of Arkansas who have concerns about the offenders who may have impacted their lives.

"With this component of the VINE program, a victim can be notified when a parolee absconds and when he is returned to custody. This type of information helps victims who are struggling to put their lives back into place following a violent crime," says Guntharp.

"I'm pleased to have partnered with VINE on this project," Guntharp said.

The Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) continues to partner with Appriss Inc. to provide both VINE and JusticeXchange. JusticeXchange is an integrated criminal justice application that gives law enforcement officials immediate access to information about offenders held in jail across the country through a secure web site. Arkansas was the first state in the nation to adopt this service.

In 2003, DCC and ACIC developed Arkansas's first implementation of the US Department of Justice Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXMLDM) with the interface between JusticeXchange and the DCC electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS). This interface was the first of its kind in the nation, and alerts law enforcement officers of the probation or parole status and supervising officer contact information of every active offender in eOMIS. Offender photographs, demographic information and cautions and warnings are also exchanged. Parole and probation officers are alerted via email upon a supervised offenders booking/arrest.



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