



Victim notification system hits 69 counties in Mississippi

By Ashley Conroy

JACKSON, MS (WLBT) - The statewide victims notifications system is one step closer to the goal of quick information to Mississippi's crime victims.

It's called the Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification or SAVIN. The Mississippi Department of Corrections said it's now hit 69 counties throughout the state.

Charlotte Murray Pace was brutally attacked and murdered eight years ago by Derrick Todd Lee.

Her mother, Ann Pace, still vividly remembers the horror she felt the night her daughter was killed.

Since then, Pace said sometimes she has trouble sleeping at night wondering what could happen if Lee escaped.

"Sometimes at night, the nightmares and fears can catch up with you," said Pace.

Lee is now on death row in Louisiana for the murder of Murray Pace along with five other women.

MDOC SAVIN Director Adam Lee said the system works through a simple step-by-step registration process that automatically links the status of an offender to a victim via email or phone.

"Within 15 minutes of that offending being released or escaping that person will be notified," said Lee.

Lee also said SAVIN works fluidly with law enforcement if a criminal escapes. He said the overall goal is for the system to save lives.

"That's the sole purpose of this is to save lives to prevent horrible things from happening again or anybody being revictimized," said Lee.

For Pace, the memory of her daughter sits vividly with her everyday. She said it's the peace of mind knowing exactly that Lee remains behind bars.

"Knowing that Derrick Lee is in prison for certain, is a great reassurance to all of us," said Pace. MDOC reports there are currently 4,700 registered crime victims state-wide, but 21,000 inmates remain incarcerated.

MDOC lists: 1-888-9-MSSAVIN (888-967-7284) or www.vinelink.com to register for the victim notification system.

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