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Program Notifies Victims When Person Is Being Released From Prison



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LAS CRUCES, N.M. -- The VINE program is simple. If anyone has ever been a victim of any crime, the person can sign up to be notified anytime the victim's perpetrator is released from jail or even just transferred.

"It gives them the opportunity to take back control of their own lives that they lost when they were victimized," said Kevin Cary of VINE. Once signed up for the program, victims will then be notified with a phone call or e-mail.

"It gives them a sense of knowing what's happening and where that person is so they don't have to worry every night that they may turn the corner and see that person," said Cary.

The VINE program began back in 1994 in Kentucky after a female was supposed to be notified when her attacker, her ex-boyfriend, was released from jail but she never was notified and he confronted her one day in a parking lot after she got off work, murdering her.

"I'd be nervous for my safety for my family members' safety," said NMSU student Jeremy Little.

"I think it's a great idea, there have been victims that have been violently assaulted and without them being notified that someone's coming out, they're still at risk," said Frances Escalante of north Las Cruces.

The program begins in parts of New Mexico Tuesday. For more information, just click on the link provided under the links mentioned page of this Web site.

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