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Contact: Rick Jones
Appriss, Inc.
800/816-0491, x. 3855

Iowa to launch victim notification statewide
Federal funding allows state to join National Victim Notification Network

Louisville, Ky. –The Iowa Attorney General’s Office has partnered with Appriss, Inc. to deliver automated victim information and notification services throughout the state. Iowa VINE® will allow crime victims and other concerned citizens to track the custody status of offenders by telephone or online.

Iowa VINE will provide real-time information regarding offenders’ incarceration status to crime victims 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Users can call a toll-free number 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, and technical support professionals monitor and maintain the network to ensure high reliability and availability of this potentially life-saving service.

The service is being funded by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) as part of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) program. The explicit goal of the BJA SAVIN program is to bring as many states as possible together into a National Victim Notification Network.

VINE is currently available in Ada County. Iowa joins 26 other states that have launched statewide victim notification using Appriss technology and services.

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 for pseudoephedrine, one of the components in the manufacture of methamphetamine, and to "watch" specific individuals who exceed the legal limits imposed by state law.

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field; developing collaborations and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning; streamlining the administration of grants; increasing training and technical assistance; creating accountability of projects; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision-makers at every level.

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