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## **Law enforcement utilizes JusticeXchange to nab non-compliant sex offenders**

*Secure database streamlines search effort*

**Louisville, Ky.** - JusticeXchange®, a secure database of criminal justice information, has become an important tool in the search for unregistered or non-compliant sex offenders. Police, sheriffs, and other agency officials have found success tapping into the service's watch feature to locate offenders who have failed to keep authorities informed of their whereabouts.

JusticeXchange is a service of Appriss® Inc., a technology company providing resources to criminal justice and victims of crime. A number of state and local agencies use it to find suspects who may be in custody in another jurisdiction. By placing a watch on a suspect, officials can likely locate the individual in less time and effort.

David Wolinski with the Maryland Department of Public Safety uses JusticeXchange to track down sex offenders across his state. He receives an average of 20 hits per week, passing the information to the individual agencies.

"It has been a tremendous help in bringing down the state's non-compliance rate," said Wolinski. "We have been able to accurately identify sex offenders getting arrested in Ohio, Texas, Florida, Louisiana, and North Carolina."

Teresa McKinney, division manager of planning and development with the Durham County, North Carolina Sheriff's Office, was informed that a sex offender had moved into the county but had failed to register. A watch was placed on the individual and within three weeks, an arrest was made in Buncombe County.

"Having been in law enforcement for over 20 years, I cannot remember a time when feedback on a service like this has been so tremendously positive," said McKinney. "We are using JusticeXchange more and more, and it is making a difference."

Medina County, Texas officials have been using JusticeXchange to track down victims of a suspected serial rapist. The suspect was allegedly targeting prostitutes in Bexar County and bringing them to Medina County where they were sexually and physically assaulted.

“Because of their lifestyle, the victims are hard to find,” said Wayne Springer, a sergeant investigator with the Medina County Sheriff’s Office. “We have entered the victims into JusticeXchange as watches, and as they are arrested and booked into jails, we have been able to interview them for more information.”

Recently, Austin police had been chasing a suspected rapist for six months. The individual was wanted in connection with the sexual assault of a child. Although the suspect was consistently arrested by various agencies across the state, he was usually released from custody within hours or a few days before Austin authorities could contact the jail.

Detective Joel K. Pridgeon with the Child Abuse/Child Exploitation Division entered the suspect’s name as a watch in JusticeXchange and was notified the next time he was arrested. Pridgeon was able to get the warrant signed and executed in the jail before the suspect was released.

“I can tell people to keep an eye out for a suspect all I want, to no avail. There are too many people going in and out of jails and too many shift changes for me to keep all jailers up to date on who I’m looking for,” said Pridgeon. “JusticeXchange keeps it simple.”

JusticeXchange is currently available in a number of states including Kentucky, Florida, Texas, Maryland, Arkansas, New York, Washington, and North Carolina. Since 2002, there have been more than one million searches performed by JusticeXchange including 250,000 watch hits.

### **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 2,000 communities across the country. Other innovative services include VINE Protective Order® which alerts individuals when a protective order has been served; MethCheck®, which works with both law enforcement and pharmacies to address the illegal meth lab problem; and AlertXpress®, a high-speed notification service for government agencies.

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