



For Immediate Release:
April 11, 2011

Contact: Rick Jones
Appriss Inc.
rjones@appriss.com
502.815.3855

Appriss highlights VINE[®] during National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Victims across the country track offenders with automated notification system

The Office for Victims of Crime has helped lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week since 1981. The annual observance promotes victims' rights and honors crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year's theme is "Reshaping the Future. Honoring the Past."

One of the rights crime victims cherish the most is the right to be notified when their offender is released from jail or prison. Crime victims use VINE to access timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders. The system helps satisfy most states' legislative requirement for victim notification.

In 1994, Louisville, Kentucky became the first community to institute an automated notification system to help crime victims track their offender's status, location and release from jail. VINE now tracks more than 80 percent of the nation's offender population.

VINE is available 24 hours a day; over the telephone, through the Internet or by email. Crime victims and the general public can access the information by calling a local toll-free number or logging on to www.vinelink.com.

"Crime victims and their families often feel their very dignity is stripped away during a crime. VINE helps restore that dignity by keeping individuals informed and involved in their cases," said Mike Davis, Appriss CEO and founder. "There is still a great deal of work ahead to reshape the future as we honor the past, but we are committed to helping communities reach that goal."

Victims can inquire about the current status of an offender and register to be notified immediately in the event of an offender's release, escape, transfer or court appearance. Victims can determine whether an offender is held in jail as well as the facility's location.

When a notification is triggered, VINE automatically calls the number or numbers the victim has provided. Calls continue for a designated period of time, or until the

victim enters a four-digit personal identification number. In 2010, VINE issued nearly 2.4 million notifications by telephone, letter, or email. Depending on the community, victims can interface with VINE in multiple languages. Live operators are available to assist victims 24 hours a day.

VINE communicates with jail and prison booking systems from county and state correctional facilities in near real-time. Updated information is transmitted to the Appriss Data Network™. The network is the nation's largest integrated criminal justice information database and collects information from the nation's largest metropolitan areas. Appriss technicians monitor all VINE systems round-the-clock. Sixty million data transactions are monitored each month by Appriss to keep victims informed.

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