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

Puerto Rico expands victim notification to citizens
First Spanish-speaking territory to offer automated service

Puerto Rico has become the first Spanish-speaking territory to offer an automated victim information and notification service. The Department of Correction and Rehabilitation has announced the implementation of SAVER, its version of the VINE[®] system. The department contracted with Appriss[®] to provide the service to crime victims and witnesses of crime.

“Until now, we depended on an archaic system to maintain a record of victims and prisoners. We are leaving behind the folders and handwritten papers so we can transfer data to an electronic system that is more agile and efficient,” said Carlos Molina Rodriguez, secretary of corrections. “This will contribute to victim protection and help facilitate the process of requesting privileges or prisoner sentence completion.”

SAVER notifies victims or witnesses regarding an offender’s release, transfer, escape, or death in custody. It also notifies individuals on an offender’s admittance to a diversion program. Victims can register by calling 1-877-778-4631 or visiting the website at www.saverpr.com. They can be notified of a status change by telephone or email.

The first phase of the SAVER project was initiated in February 2009 with the creation of the first victim and DCR prisoner electronic database. The second phase, will add text messages and regular mail options. Plans are to eventually integrate the Juvenile Institutions Administration and Office of Pretrial Services, among other components of the DCR.

“SAVER is one more example of our commitment to develop and establish programs to keep people informed,” added Rodriguez. “We want to establish initiatives that guarantee the security of victims and their families.”

As part of the project, the first Centralized Victim Notification Unit was created. This unit will provide more specific prisoner information to victims as required by law.

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