

## System allows concerned citizens to track inmates' status

Posted: Feb 16, 2012 6:53 PM EST

Updated: Feb 16, 2012 8:24 PM EST

By Trang Pham-Bui - [bio](#) | [email](#)

GULFPORT, MS (WLOX) - If you are a victim of a crime or just a concerned citizen, you can now get instant notification on the status of the offender at the Harrison County Jail. The Harrison County Sheriff's Department just launched a new system that allows you to track the whereabouts of inmates.

The program is called VINE, which stands for Victim Information and Notification Everyday. It's a new tool to let the public know instantly whether an inmate is still behind bars or back on the streets.

"They can track anybody in this system," said Harrison County Sheriff Melvin Brisolaro.

The sheriff calls the VINE program an added level of protection for crime victims. Now, the public can check on the custody status of any inmate at the Harrison County Jail, any time, day or night.

"If an individual burglarized your home and you want to know when that individual is being released, you go in and check on that individual," said Brisolaro.

You can register for the [VINE program online](#) or through the phone by calling 1-888-967-7284. Next, you enter the inmate's name and choose the agency, state, and county.

"If you know it's a Harrison County case, you'll go back and click on Harrison County," he said.

The moment an inmate is booked into the Harrison County Jail, that information is immediately entered into the VINE system. Once that inmate is released from the facility, in a matter of minutes, you'll get an alert and the reason why they're out.

"You can be notified either by voicemail, email, text or just a regular phone call, or you can be notified by all of them. I just think it's a great system to let the people know when somebody is going to be released from jail," said Brisolaro.

If the inmate is transferred to Parchman, you can continue to track the offender. That's because the state Department of Corrections is also connected to the VINE system.

"Anytime you go online to check on it, you will see if anything changed, if any of the status changed," said Brisolaro.

Brisolaro said this free service gives crime victims and their families some peace of mind.

"It's a way to put the victim's mind at ease if they want to know when this individual is getting back out in the community," said Brisolaro. "I'd much rather know it than run across him at Walmart, so I think it's a very good tool."

The Jackson County Sheriff's Department is also on the VINE system. It went online last July.

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