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Contact: Amy Vorachek
SAVIN Program Manager
avorachek@nd.gov
(701) 328-1108

North Dakota launches statewide victim notification program

Louisville, Ky. – Crime victims and other concerned citizens throughout North Dakota will soon have around-the-clock access to custody information about offenders held in jails or prisons throughout the state.

Users can contact the North Dakota State Victim Notification Service at 1-866-ND1-VINE (1-866-631-8463) or www.vinelink.com to track the custody status of an offender or register to be notified by phone or e-mail in the event of a transfer, release, or escape.

Live operators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist victims who need help obtaining offender information or registering for notification. The service is free and anonymous.

The North Dakota Criminal Justice Information Sharing program has contracted with Appriss® Inc. — a Louisville, Kentucky-based technology company that provides resources to criminal justice and victims of crime — to provide the service.

North Dakota joins 37 other states that have launched statewide victim notification using Appriss technology and services.

The North Dakota State Victim Notification Service is being funded by a Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. Since 2005, the SAVIN grant program has nearly doubled the number of states providing automated victim notification.

About Appriss

Appriss provides innovative technology solutions that help thousands of local, state, and Federal government agencies serve and protect their citizens. Other innovative services include VINE Protective Order®, which automatically notifies petitioners when protective orders are served on respondents; JusticeXchange®, the leading solution connecting criminal justice agencies nationwide; SONAR®, an automated tool that keeps communities informed on the whereabouts of registered sex offenders; and MethCheck®, which allows law enforcement to monitor the purchases of pseudoephedrine, a key component in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

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.