

### When was VINE developed?

The first VINE program was unveiled in Jefferson County (Louisville) Kentucky, in December, 1994. Today, VINE serves thousands of communities in most states and the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Department of Justice (FBI, U.S. Attorney's Offices, Federal Bureau of Prisons).

### How do users register?

Most users register by calling the VINE toll-free telephone number in their area or by visiting [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com). Requirements for registration are explained during the call-in and on the Web site, and are very simple. Some knowledge specific to the offender or case is usually required. Some agencies may have special requirements regarding registration.

### Does VINE monitor all offenders?

VINE monitors the custody or case status of offenders housed in (or handled by) participating criminal justice agencies. Consider the following:

- There may be delays from the time of arrest before an offender is "officially" booked into the system. If VINE cannot confirm custody, callers should assume the offender is NOT in custody.
- Individuals released on bail or his/her recognizance may NOT be considered in custody.
- VINE may NOT monitor offenders held at a municipal jail, police precinct, or other police facilities.

### Who can use the VINE service?

- Crime victims
- Family members and friends of crime victims
- Victim advocates and victim service providers
- Law enforcement and criminal justice staff
- ANYONE concerned about the custody status of an offender

### How will the general public learn about VINE?

Appriss, provider of the VINE service, provides online and on-site training for law enforcement officers and victim service providers in the community. In addition, we can provide material in the form of brochures, posters, and tearpads to first responders, law enforcement officers, and victim service providers that explain the service.

### What should I tell victims about VINE?

- All telephone calls and registrations are free, anonymous and confidential.
- VINE is a service available to assist victims in determining the custody status of an offender.
- Do not depend solely on the VINE service for protection. Make it part of your safety plan.

### What if an offender is released outside of regular business hours?

The VINE service is active 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Notification calls from VINE may come in the middle of the night if a change in custody status occurs during that time.

### What if the offender is transferred out of the custody of a participating institution, but is still incarcerated?

VINE will notify registered users of the transfer. The service can also inform the victim about how to obtain additional information on the offender. If you have a question regarding participating agencies in your area, or need further information about VINE, call the Appriss Operations Center at 1-866-Appriss (1-866-277-7477).