

# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **VINE TRACKING SYSTEM PROVIDES CRIME VICTIMS WITH CRITICAL INFORMATION ON PRISONER STATUS**

(ANCHORAGE) – The Alaska Department of Corrections today announced significant improvements to its statewide crime victim notification system: Victim Information and Notification Everyday, or VINE.

“Alaska has been, and continues to be, a leader among the states in protecting, expanding and supporting the rights of crime victims,” said Corrections Commissioner Marc Antrim. “We are very proud to provide this vital notification and information service to Alaskans.”

In 1999, Alaska became one of the first states connected to VINE, a service provided by Kentucky-based Appriss, Inc. Today VINE is active in 39 states and two Canadian provinces.

The improved VINE service allows crime victims and other concerned citizens to obtain close to real-time custody status and location information online, through VINELink ([www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)) as well as by touch-tone phone (800-247-9763).

VINE will soon have the capability to provide notification 30 days before an offender’s release. In addition, VINELink will begin offering notification by email.

The VINE system allows crime victims or other interested citizens to receive immediate telephone notification of a prisoner’s change in status – for example release, death, escape or transfer to a less restrictive level of custody.

Alaskans using the VINE telephone system can interact in Spanish, Russian or Central Yup’ik – as well as in English.

Prisoner information is collected automatically in near real-time from correctional facility information systems using a program designed and maintained by Appriss, Inc.

The Alaska VINE system averages 3,200 incoming calls, and 1,700 outgoing notifications, each month. Presently, about 2,200 Alaskans are registered for VINE notification.

“As one of the first states to implement VINE, Alaska demonstrated its commitment to empowering a vulnerable segment of the population with fast, simple access to the information they desperately need to protect themselves,” said Appriss, Inc. President Mike Davis. “We are proud to be involved in a partnership that has proven to be so beneficial for crime victims throughout Alaska.”

To better inform Alaskans of the state’s crime victim notification service, the Department of Corrections has distributed two 30-second public service announcements – featuring America’s Most Wanted host John Walsh – to Alaska’s television stations. Audio PSAs have been distributed to radio stations as well.