

Indiana launches statewide notification network

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"We're putting a system in place that has long been needed by the victims of crime. This is a major step forward in our efforts to protect Hoosiers."

Governor, Mitch Daniels



From L to R: Michael Cunegin, Criminal Justice Institute Executive Director; Commissioner J. David Donahue, Indiana Department of Correction; Governor Mitch Daniels; Steve Luce, Sheriff of Knox County and President of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association; Sheriff Matt Strittmatter; Christopher Meloy, Chairman of the Parole Board; Jeff Bercovitz, Director of Juvenile and Family Law; Indiana Judicial Center

INDIANAPOLIS (January 26, 2007) - Governor Mitch Daniels today outlined the state's plans to help victims of crime track the status of an offender housed in Indiana. The Indiana Department of Correction has started implementation of the new Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) network, the result of legislation approved unanimously in 2005.

The automated network will allow Indiana residents to receive real-time information about the custody status of offenders in all 92 counties. They can register to be notified about an offender's placement,

release, transfer or other change. There is no cost to use the service and users can access the offender information by telephone or the Internet.

"We're putting a system in place that has long been needed by the victims of crime. This is a major step forward in our efforts to protect Hoosiers," said Daniels.

Development of the program has already started and will be launched in April. Information about 80 percent of Indiana offenders will be available by the end of this year, with the remainder added in 2008. All of the 32 state prison facilities will participate, and the federal funding will cover the cost for all counties that offer the program in their communities, said Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue. All are expected to do so. Marion and Hamilton counties have notification systems in place and will join the new network.

"Users accessing the automated service can learn the offender's custody status change in real time," Donahue said.

SAVIN will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and operators will be available around the clock to answer questions or assist callers. Crime victims are anonymous while using the system.

In the last two years, Congress approved \$17 million to fund the implementation of SAVIN systems nationwide. Indiana received \$1.25 million to begin and operate the program. The state, through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the Department of Correction, are providing about \$950,000 in matching funds.

The Department of Correction has selected a vendor, Appriss Inc., to implement the system.

These links will connect to an audio file demonstrating how the new notification system will work:

- http://www.appriss.com/IN_SAVIN/IbScript.mp3
- http://www.appriss.com/IN_SAVIN/ObScript.mp3

About the Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.