

For Immediate Release  
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### Arkansas VINE System Enhancements

Pine Bluff, AR-The Arkansas Department of Correction recently received a two year, \$500,000 federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to enhance the existing state victim notification system known as VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday). The ADC was the grant recipient, but partnered with the Arkansas Department of Community Correction (DCC) and the Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) to meet the grant objectives. Two of the objectives of the grant, offender photographs on the public VINE website ([www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)) and an automated escape notification system, were recently completed and made available to the public.

The VINE system, which has served crime victims in Arkansas since 1998 with a phone notification system, made a public website available in 2006 with limited, in-custody offender information. With the federal grant money the VINELink website has been enhanced with ADC and DCC offender photos, allowing victims searching the VINELink website to ensure they have the correct offender before registering for notification.

The VINE system currently makes notification on offender escapes from custody to anyone registered against that specific offender. The only other method of notification is to be signed up for the ADC phone tree notification system. ADC, DCC, and ACIC used this federal grant to enhance the existing systems to create an automated escape notification system. The Arkansas Escape Alert System allows citizens living in the vicinity of a Department of Correction unit, or Department of Community Correction center, to register for automated notification in the event of an escape from those facilities.

Upon entry of escape into the departments' offender management system, an immediate notification will be issued to everyone registered against that facility. Escape notification will be made 24/7 in the form of an automated phone call and/or email message. The notification will alert registrants of the escape and direct them to the appropriate website (ADC or DCC) for more information on the escapee. Notification will also be made between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. upon the recapture of that escapee.

There is no limit to the number of facility registrations and individuals may register up to three phone numbers and three email addresses for notification. Registration for the Arkansas Escape Alert system is completed at [www.alertxpress.com](http://www.alertxpress.com) by clicking on Arkansas and following the instructions provided on the page. All of the participating agencies are extremely proud and excited to be able to offer this new tool to enhance public safety for the citizens of Arkansas.

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