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NEVADA BOARD OF PAROLE COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2013

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary

From: David M. Smith, Hearings Examiner II

Subject: Assembly Bill 40 (AB 40)

The Nevada Constitution establishes rights for victims which include their right to be:

- (a) Informed, upon written request, of the status or disposition of a criminal proceeding at any stage of the proceeding;
- (b) Present at all public hearings involving the critical stages of a criminal proceeding; and
- (c) Heard at all proceedings for the sentencing or release of a convicted person after trial.

There are a number of statutes in Nevada that require criminal justice agencies to provide notice to victims who have requested notice of hearings or proceedings related to their offender.

The Parole Board is required to give notice to victims of crime, if a victim has requested to be notified in writing and provides a current address (NRS 213.131).

The following are highlights of the origins of the requested change in AB 40.

- VINE is an electronic victim notification system founded in 1994 and is currently used in 42 of the nation's state correctional departments. It is designed to eliminate the need to manually notify victims of a change in an offender's status, and offers 24/7 support with regard to registering for notification and access to information.
- VINE is not limited to registration for victims. The general public, including inmate families, may register and be provided notification of offender status changes.

- During the last Biennium, the Attorney General applied for and obtained a grant to implement the VINE system in the State of Nevada.
- The Department of Corrections has created a computer interface with VINE and currently provides notices on offender status changes to registered persons.
- In calendar 2012, the Parole Board mailed out just under 3,000 notices and hearing results to registered victims.
- The Parole Board is currently working to facilitate some notices to VINE registrants, but can not rely on VINE for all its notification requirements because of current statutory requirements. The Board does not have the resources to manage notification to victims through two systems.
- AB 40 was requested to provide the option of managing victim notifications through one system.

AB 40 allows the Board to use an automated victim notification system, and establishes the procedures to migrate registrants in our current system to that system.

After submitting the original bill draft, it occurred to us that it may be more beneficial to the State as a whole to establish global statutory language that affords the option of using an automated system to any of the State's criminal justice agencies.

While we can't speak on behalf of these other agencies, if the Judiciary Committee supports AB 40 and believes that it is more appropriate to apply the suggested changes in a global manner, we will be happy to work with the Judiciary staff to draft language that enables all State criminal justice agencies this same option.

“This is a system that, had it been in place, could have saved Mary. It’s too late for Mary, but there are still a lot of victims out there.”

John Byron
father of murder victim Mary Byron
and advocate for victims’ rights

VINE — Victim Information and Notification Everyday

Across the country, crime victims and other concerned citizens are using VINE for access to timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day — over the telephone, through the Internet, or by e-mail.

Victims can call to inquire about the current status of an offender and register to be notified immediately in the event of an offender’s release, escape, transfer, or court appearance.

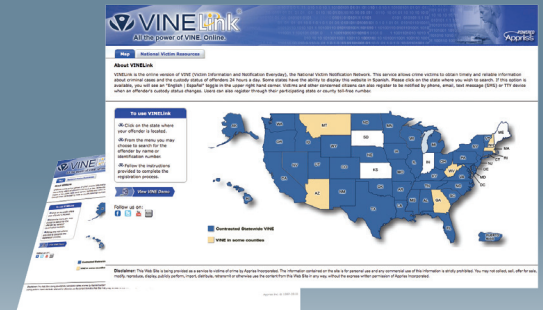
Benefits of VINE

Around-the-clock support — a staff of live operators to assist victims and technicians who monitor all VINE systems

- Saves taxpayers money by eliminating the need to manually notify victims, allowing staff to focus on their core responsibilities
- Provides life-saving services to victims at no cost
- Helps satisfy most states’ legislative requirement for victim notification
- Depending on the community, victims can interface with VINE in multiple languages
- VINE generates more than one million notification calls each month

Put VINE to Work for You

For more information about VINE or to arrange for a demonstration, contact Appriss at 1-866-Appriss (1-866-277-7477) or info@appriss.com. You can also learn more about VINE at www.appriss.com.



VINELink Web Site

Also, log onto www.vinelink.com for the same functionality in a convenient Web format.



How VINE Works

- VINE communicates with jail and prison booking systems in near real-time, transmitting updated information to the Appriss Data Network.
- Crime victims and the general public can access the information by calling a local toll-free number, or logging onto www.vinelink.com, any time of the day or night.
- Victims can inquire whether an offender is held in jail as well as the facility's location.
- Users can register to be notified immediately of a change in the offender's status, such as release, transfer, or escape.
- When a notification is triggered, VINE automatically calls the number or numbers the victim has provided.
- Calls continue for a designated period of time, or until the victim enters a four-digit PIN.
- Victim advocates and law enforcement agencies have access to VINEWatch, an administrative portal that provides usage statistics and other essential management tools.

Where is VINE?

- More than 3,100 communities nationwide
- All of the nation's largest metropolitan areas
- 42 of the nation's Departments of Correction

To date, the VINE system tracks more than 85 percent of the nation's offender population to keep victims informed. All of these communities are connected to the Appriss Data Network™, the nation's largest integrated criminal justice information database. Data from county and state correctional facilities is collected by this central hub, where Appriss manages automated interfaces and monitors 60 million data transactions each month.

SAVIN and VINE

The Statewide Automated Victim Information (SAVIN) grant program operated by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance has made funding available for state governments to implement or enhance automated victim notification programs. SAVIN grant recipients are choosing Appriss to apply the patented VINE technology to their projects.

