



# SHERIFF

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**Clay County is one of several counties in Iowa to have automated victim notification from the jail, available on IowaVINE.**

### **The Story Behind VINE**

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) was created and implemented in Kentucky by Appriss, Inc., a company that develops law enforcement and victim rights software.

VINE was created about 12 years ago after a woman named Mary Byron was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend. The man had been incarcerated for sexually assaulting Mary. The Sheriff assured Mary that she would be told if the offender left the jail. The offender posted bail, went immediately to Mary Byron's home, and killed her. Mary had not been notified that her offender was released from custody.

VINE is now available in 42 states. At least 24 of the states have VINE available to victims statewide. In addition, the Federal Prison System has VINE available to victims nationwide. The Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division is developing and implementing a statewide victim information and notification system named Iowa VINE.

### **Iowa VINE Essential Information**

**\*\* The Clay County Jail went "live" with IowaVINE on April 5, 2007.**

#### **Background**

In 2006, the Iowa Attorney General's Office received a \$1.2 million grant to establish an effective automated system of tracking criminals and assuring a victim's right to notification about incarcerated offenders. Appriss, the providers of the VINE service, has contracted to provide an Iowa statewide program similar to that provided in 19 other states across the country.

The Iowa statewide information and notification system is called IowaVINE. The IowaVINE system will be implemented over the next 18 months in all 99 Iowa counties as well as the Department of Corrections.

The IowaVINE system will empower victims by allowing them to either call in or to check a website for offender-status information at anytime and from anywhere.

### **How IowaVINE Works**

Iowa Law was amended in 2006 to allow for an automated victim notification system that will enhance certain crime notification duties of a criminal justice office, agency, or department. IowaVINE will not completely replace efforts currently undertaken to meet victim notification rights. IowaVINE is simply another tool for us to help victims get peace of mind through access to information and notifications about their offender.

IowaVINE is a voluntary service where crime victims can get information and register for notification. Victims can go to the website to get information on the status and location of an offender. A victim may also register for automated telephone or email notification of a change in the offender's status or location. However, some victims may still choose to register only with the criminal justice system for direct written notification as allowed by Iowa Law.

IowaVINE benefits and empowers victims. They can either call or check a website for offender-status information 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, and 365-days a year. They can check that information anytime from anywhere. A victim can also register for immediate notification of change in the status of an offender incarcerated in the Clay County Jail.

IowaVINE is an anonymous and cost-free method for a victim to receive information, notification, and peace of mind regarding an offender who harmed them and who they may fear. IowaVINE also provides cost-free operator assistance 24-hours a day to ensure that a victim has all of the help they need to get the information that they want.

Victims will access IowaVINE through a toll free number, 1-888-7-IAVINE (1-888-742-8463), or through a website, [www.vineline.com](http://www.vineline.com).