



STATEWIDE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION

Crime victims have a constitutional right to be informed of their offender's status and court events related to their case. Currently, victims must often contact multiple agencies, through phone calls, letters, or e-mails, in search of the information they need. With large caseloads and resource limitations, it is challenging for law enforcement and prosecutor offices to meet every request. This scenario not only limits victims' participation in the criminal justice system, but also can compromise safety. To help provide critical information to victims, the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) initiative aims to assist states in building, implementing, or improving their statewide automated victim information and notification systems.

In 2005, Congress appropriated \$8 million to assist states in creating or improving their automated victim notification systems. In June 2005, the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced solicitations for grants to help states increase victim safety by developing policies, practices, and technological solutions for the timely and accurate dissemination of information about offenders and their cases. This information-sharing capability is also available to court, corrections, and law enforcement officials.

BJA will facilitate the development of minimum program requirements to help ensure interoperability between systems across the country. Participating states will be required to adhere to justice information data sharing standards and the U.S. Department of Justice Global Justice eXtensible Markup Language (XML) Data Model (GJXDM), as well as standards for program management, training, reporting, and assessment.

SAVIN will help states obtain effective technology to manage critical information about offenders in near real-time. Through SAVIN, victims can:

- Access critical information through a web site and toll-free number with support from a live operator 24 hours a day.
- Register to be notified via telephone, e-mail, Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD), or a written letter each time the status of their offender or case changes.
- Access information about their offender's arrest, initial incarceration, pretrial release, judicial process, final disposition, post-conviction incarceration, and community supervision.

For more information on SAVIN, contact J. Patrick McCreary, BJA Associate Deputy Director for Policy, at james.p.mccreary@usdoj.gov.