

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides recommendations and sets the standards for planning, implementing, and operating an effective Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) program. In 2005, Congress established a grant program, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), to provide the initial funding and guidelines to help states plan and implement or enhance SAVIN programs. The IJIS Institute was selected by BJA to develop and publish initial national standards for these programs. These were based on three primary objectives for the project, which are to:

- Use existing SAVIN practitioners, including victim advocates, to identify and leverage best practices for SAVIN programs.
- Establish victim-focused principles that states can adhere to when implementing SAVIN programs.
- Require SAVIN programs to follow the appropriate national standards established for sharing justice information.

This updated document represents the collaborative effort between the IJIS Institute, National Criminal Justice Association, Justice Solutions, and the National SAVIN Project Advisory Board (SAVIN PAB). The SAVIN PAB is comprised of SAVIN Administrators, victim advocates, crime victims and survivors, criminal justice professionals, and private sector practitioners with specific areas of subject matter expertise.

This document provides direction to help states establish a mission and goals for the SAVIN program. These guiding tenets must be based on victim-focused principles of victim/survivor safety, confidentiality, and autonomy. This document reviews the importance of an effective governance plan that includes all stakeholders. SAVIN programs require a high degree of cooperation and decision-making among private organizations as well as local, county, and state justice agencies. All of these parties are important to a successful SAVIN program, if it is to meet the needs of crime victims, survivors, and the public.

This document also establishes the guidelines and standards for planning, managing, operating and assessing a successful and effective SAVIN program. These sections provide key information to develop a program plan and to identify proven strategies to effectively manage it, including planning for and addressing critical events. Because a number of SAVIN programs are created or enhanced under grants from the U.S. Department of Justice (i.e., BJA, Office on Violence Against Women), states must begin planning early to support the ongoing effort involved to maintain and operate a SAVIN program beyond the initial grant funding period. This early planning demonstrates a long-term commitment to public safety, which is discussed in greater detail throughout the document.

Finally, this document includes a set of technology standards to ensure that SAVIN programs conform to national victim constitutional and statutory rights in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Since most of the non-victim information will be exchanged with other state and local projects, adopting specifications and standards provides a foundation for SAVIN programs that is trustworthy and cost-effective.