

SAVIN MISSION, GOAL AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Introduction

Nationwide, communities should focus on the rights, needs, and concerns of crime victims. Victim notification services ensure that victims are informed of key activities and events related to their cases and offenders. Access to accurate information and timely notification services is an essential foundation to help meet the needs of crime victims, their families, and communities. These services should be uniform throughout each state, so victims' rights are protected, regardless of who they are, their demographics, the type of crime committed against them, special needs they may have, or where they live.

One mechanism for providing this vital service is a SAVIN program that is based on victim-focused guiding principles, uses state-of-the-art technologies, and provides 24/7 access to trained personnel who can assist them in using the program.

Mission

To serve crime victims and survivors, and enhance public safety by establishing standards and guidelines for comprehensive, automated information and notification services.

Goal

To increase public safety and improve basic justice decisions by ensuring that victims are given timely and accurate information that both enhances their ability to protect themselves and ensures they are able to fully participate in the justice process if they so choose.

Guiding Principles

SAVIN services must be developed and implemented using the following principles as the basis for all decision-making. SAVIN programs must:

- Be victim-focused
- Be safety-driven
- Provide for victim/survivor confidentiality
- Provide for autonomy (e.g., the right to access or decline services) without consequences

These guiding principles require each SAVIN Program Manager and stakeholders to review all program decisions for compliance with these fundamental benchmarks:

- Is the strategy or decision-making victim-focused?
- What ways could the strategy or decisions affect a victim's safety or well-being?
- Will the victim remain anonymous or could the victim's confidentiality be compromised in any way?
- Can victims choose to participate (or not) on their terms and without negative consequences?

It is imperative that there be representation and direct involvement from victims in each state SAVIN program. This requirement is outlined in the SAVIN Governance Guidelines and Standards section of this document.