

## **The Benefits of SAVIN Introduction**

Crime and victimization often have a devastating impact on crime victims and survivors, their families, communities and our society as a whole. In 2007, the National Crime Victimization Survey found that there were 5.2 million crimes of violence and 17.5 million property crimes in the United States.

In all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories, crime victims and survivors have the right to be notified about their rights under law, the status of their cases, and the status of the alleged and/or convicted offenders in their cases. These rights are articulated in state law; Victims' Bill of Rights; and in 33 states, within the state's Constitution (for additional information about individual states' specific statutes relevant to victim information and notification, please visit [www.victimlaw.org](http://www.victimlaw.org) sponsored by the National Center for Victims of Crime, with support from the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice).

The right to notification is considered to be the "threshold right" for crime victims. By informing victims of their rights, SAVIN programs may be able to help them understand their legal rights to information, participation, protection, a voice in the justice process, and restitution (among other rights). Therefore, SAVIN programs can help justice and crime victim assistance professionals fulfill an important legal mandate in accordance with their state law by informing victims of their rights.

Through SAVIN, victims can receive information about and referrals to victim assistance services in their community. By promoting victim services, SAVIN generates awareness about the types of assistance available to victims and survivors, and how they can access them.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for Crime Victims and Survivors

***SAVIN is a free public service that promotes individual and public safety.***

- All SAVIN services are:
  - Free.
  - Anonymous and confidential – a victim’s alleged or convicted offender will *not* know that the victim has registered for SAVIN services.
  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

Crime victims and survivors have the choice of whether they wish to register for SAVIN services, offering them autonomy and a degree of control.

SAVIN notifies registered victims of key changes in an offender’s custody status, including release from jail or prison.

Some SAVIN programs also notify victims about the status of their case, providing notification of key hearings and activities.

If an inmate in jail or a correctional facility escapes, a notification is made to the victim. Once an inmate is captured and rebooked into custody, the victim is notified.

Through SAVIN, crime victims become actively engaged in the criminal justice process related to their cases, and regain a sense of control over their lives, and over decisions they can make based upon the information and notification they receive.

Victims’ personal sense of safety and security can be enhanced by SAVIN, which helps them access important information so they can make *informed* decisions about their cases and their lives.

Through SAVIN services, victims can also access information about additional rights, such as safety and protection, participation, restitution, information and referral, and victim compensation (in violent crime cases), among others.

If a crime occurs in a state different from the one in which the victim resides, he or she may still register for SAVIN services to be notified and informed.

SAVIN operators are on duty 24/7, and can help victims access the system and the information they seek.

SAVIN operators can also provide victims with information about and referrals to supportive services in their own communities.

Victims may register as many telephone numbers as they wish for SAVIN notification (such as family members, friends, at work, etc.) to increase their sense of security. Multiple telephone registration options can also provide protection to victims who reside, work with, or have any relationship with their alleged or convicted offender.

SAVIN registration is available in various methods to meet the diverse needs of victims and other at-risk individuals, including persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and persons with disabilities.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for Victim Advocates and Victim Service Providers

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  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

Any victim advocate or VSP can access SAVIN services and register to be notified of the status of an alleged or convicted offender. In cases where the victim’s safety is at risk, this is a precautionary measure that can enhance the victim’s sense of security.

SAVIN can help ensure compliance with victims’ key statutory and/or constitutional rights.

The previous, time-intensive and costly process of informing victims about the status of their case, and alleged or convicted offender, by telephone, letter, email or in person is eased by SAVIN. Now, victim advocates and victim service providers (VSPs) can simply inform victims of SAVIN services and help them register, greatly reducing the amount of time it takes to keep victims informed and notified.

SAVIN frees up valuable time that victim advocates and VSPs can devote to spending more personal time with victims or attending to other important duties.

When victims register for SAVIN services, it can help them make informed decisions about their lives, and about their cases. This can lead to decision making and actions that enhance a victim’s sense of safety and security.

SAVIN services reinforce the information about victims’ rights that advocates and service providers give to victims. Victim advocates and service providers can increase awareness of victims about how to access information about additional rights, such as

protection, participation, restitution, information and referral, and victim compensation (in violent crime cases), among others.

If an inmate in jail or a correctional facility escapes, a notification is made to the victim. Once an inmate is captured and rebooked into custody, the victim is notified.

The key victim advocacy tenets of seeking to return control to victims and respecting victim/survivor autonomy are enhanced by SAVIN. Victims themselves decide if and how they choose to receive notification about the status of the offender and/or status of their cases.

SAVIN services promote collaboration among law enforcement, courts, corrections and victim assistance agencies to more effectively work together in implementing SAVIN services.

All victim assistance organizations and agencies can promote SAVIN services by:

- Including SAVIN information in their victim education and outreach materials and on their Web sites.
- Publicizing SAVIN through any venues that educate victims about this valuable service that enforces their rights to information and notification, such as conferences, training workshops and public speaking engagements.

Victim advocates and VSPs can increase their outreach to victims by providing their contact information to the SAVIN program, so that they are included in their state's SAVIN information and referral database.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for Law Enforcement

***SAVIN is a free public service that promotes individual and public safety.***

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  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

SAVIN can help ensure compliance with victims’ key statutory and/or constitutional rights to information and notification which, in many states, is a designated responsibility of law enforcement.

SAVIN helps fulfill law enforcement agencies’ mission to “protect and serve.”

When victims are in crisis at the scene of the crime, law enforcement officers can begin to build trust by providing victims with information about SAVIN, and begin to actively engage victims in law enforcement and justice processes.

SAVIN saves time for law enforcement officers who can provide basic information about SAVIN services, and use the time saved from providing ongoing notification to victims for other important duties.

Law enforcement officers can provide their contact information to victims on the SAVIN victim resources provided by the state’s SAVIN program.

Law enforcement officers can register for SAVIN services against any alleged or convicted offender (including any whom they believe poses a personal or public threat to safety).

SAVIN is an excellent community relations tool to show that law enforcement is engaged in promoting victim and community safety.

SAVIN services promote collaboration among law enforcement, courts, corrections and victim assistance agencies to more effectively work together in implementing SAVIN services.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for Jails

***SAVIN is a free public service that promotes individual and public safety.***

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  - Free.
  - Anonymous and confidential – a victim’s alleged or convicted offender will *not* know that the victim has registered for SAVIN services.
  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

SAVIN can help ensure compliance with victims’ key statutory and/or constitutional rights to information and notification which, in many states, is a designated responsibility of jails.

In most jurisdictions, SAVIN enhances the jail booking system by providing accurate, timely updates of jail inmates’ custody data.

SAVIN data are collected every 15 minutes to ensure timely updates to jail inmates’ information.

If an inmate in jail or a correctional facility escapes, a notification is made to the victim. And once an inmate is captured and rebooked into custody, the victim is notified.

Personnel who, in the past, have been assigned to handle telephone calls and in-person inquiries about the status of jail inmates can simply provide information about SAVIN and then dedicate their time to other tasks.

Any member of the public can register for SAVIN and access jail custody information, saving time and human resources that would otherwise manually provide this service.

Jail personnel can register for SAVIN services against any alleged or convicted offender (including any whom they believe poses a personal or public threat to safety).

SAVIN is an excellent community relations tool to show that jails are engaged in promoting victim and community safety.



SAVIN services promote collaboration among law enforcement, courts, corrections and victim assistance agencies to more effectively work together in implementing SAVIN services.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for Prosecutors and Courts

***SAVIN is a free public service that promotes individual and public safety.***

- All SAVIN services are:
  - Free.
  - Anonymous and confidential – a victim’s alleged or convicted offender will *not* know that the victim has registered for SAVIN services.
  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

SAVIN can help ensure compliance with victims’ key statutory and/or constitutional rights to information and notification which, in many states, is a designated responsibility of prosecutors and courts.

SAVIN increases communications with victim advocates and victim service providers, who work with prosecutors and courts to ensure that victims are enrolled to receive SAVIN services.

The previous, time-intensive and costly process of informing victims about the status of their case, and alleged or convicted offender, by telephone, letter, email or in person is eased by SAVIN. Now, prosecutors, courts and their victim advocates can simply inform victims of SAVIN services and help them register, greatly reducing the amount of time it takes to keep victims informed and notified.

SAVIN frees up valuable time that prosecution- and court-based victim advocates can devote to other duties, and to other important victims’ needs.

When victims and witnesses receive timely notification about important court hearings through SAVIN, it enhances the court’s capacity to effectively manage witnesses and help ensure their attendance at and participation in key court proceedings. Timely notification of continuances and cancellations will reduce victim and witness frustrations of unnecessary attendance.

SAVIN helps promote a more “seamless” implementation of victims’ rights to notification from courts and sentencing, to institutional and community corrections.

Prosecutors, judges and court personnel can register for SAVIN services to receive notification about any alleged or convicted offender (including any whom they believe poses a personal or public threat to safety).

SAVIN services promote collaboration among law enforcement, courts, corrections and victim assistance agencies to more effectively work together in implementing SAVIN services.

SAVIN is an excellent community relations tool to show that prosecutors and courts are engaged in promoting victim and community safety.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for Community and Institutional Corrections (including probation, parole, reentry and state prisons)

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  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

SAVIN can help ensure compliance with victims’ key statutory and/or constitutional rights to information and notification which, in many states, is a designated responsibility of community and institutional corrections.

In most jurisdictions, SAVIN enhances the corrections management information system by providing accurate, timely updates of inmates’ custody and/or supervision data.

SAVIN data are collected from correctional institutions every 30 minutes to ensure timely updates to inmates’ information.

If an inmate in jail or a correctional facility escapes, a notification is made to the victim. And once an inmate is captured and rebooked into custody, the victim is notified.

Correctional personnel who, in the past, have been assigned to handle telephone calls and in-person inquiries about the status of jail inmates can simply provide information about SAVIN and then dedicate their time to other tasks.

SAVIN saves time and human resources, increasing the capacity of corrections-based victim assistance programs to focus on providing other important victim services.

SAVIN helps promote a more “seamless” implementation of victims’ rights to notification from courts and sentencing, to institutional and community corrections.

SAVIN services promote collaboration among law enforcement, courts, corrections and victim assistance agencies to more effectively work together in implementing SAVIN services.

SAVIN is an excellent community relations tool to show that institutional and community corrections agencies are engaged in promoting victim and community safety.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for Legislators

***SAVIN is a free public service that promotes individual and public safety.***

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  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

All 50 states have statutes and 30 states have constitutional amendments that provide victims with the right to information and notification. SAVIN fulfills the intent of such laws to keep victims informed of the status of their alleged and convicted offenders and cases.

Legislative support for SAVIN programs has been strongly non-partisan, recognizing that individual and public safety is a non-partisan issue.

SAVIN is very cost-effective, replacing time-intensive victim notification processes that required significantly greater human and financial resources.<sup>1</sup>

SAVIN programs improve individual constituent and public safety by providing victims and community members with information that can enhance their safety.

SAVIN provides a valuable constituent service that harnesses the cost-effective power of technology.

SAVIN services promote collaboration among law enforcement, courts, corrections and victim assistance agencies to more effectively work together in implementing SAVIN services.

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<sup>1</sup> *Notifying and Informing Victims of Crime: An Evaluation of North Carolina’s SAVAN System*, North Carolina Criminal Justice Analysis Center, Governor’s Crime Commission, February 2004. Available at: <http://www.ncgccd.org/PDFs/pubs/SAVANexec.pdf>. Accessed on May 21, 2010.

SAVIN is an excellent constituent and community relations tool to show that legislators are engaged in promoting victim and community safety.

Federal funding is available to initiate or enhance state SAVIN programs.

## The Benefits of SAVIN for the Executive Branch of State Governments

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  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

All 50 states have statutes and 33 states have constitutional amendments that provide victims with the right to information and notification. SAVIN fulfills the intent of such laws signed by Governors to keep victims informed of the status of their alleged and convicted offenders and cases.

Executive branch support for SAVIN programs has been strongly non-partisan across states, recognizing that individual and public safety is a non-partisan issue.

SAVIN is very cost-effective, replacing time-intensive victim notification processes that required significantly greater human and financial resources.

SAVIN programs enhance individual and public safety by providing victims and community members with information that can enhance their safety.

SAVIN provides a valuable public service that harnesses the cost-effective power of technology.

Federal funding is available to initiate or enhance state SAVIN programs.



## The Benefits of SAVIN for the Public

***SAVIN is a free public service that promotes individual and public safety.***

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  - Available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year.
- In most states, SAVIN services are available in English and Spanish. Some jurisdictions also provide access to additional translation services.
- In most states, SAVIN information can be accessed by telephone (including TTY and texting/SMS), the Internet (via SAVIN websites), email alerts, and letter – it is the victim’s choice as to how he or she wishes to be notified. Crime victims and survivors are *not* limited to one notification option, and may sign up for any or all, as needed.

SAVIN is a public service that is available to *anybody* whose offender is in a SAVIN database.

If community members are concerned about the status of any alleged or convicted offender whose actions threaten their sense of safety, they can register to be notified of that offender’s status.

If an inmate in jail or a correctional facility escapes, a notification is made to and SAVIN registrant. And once an inmate is captured and rebooked into custody, the registrant is notified.

SAVIN services can empower community members and neighborhoods to be proactive in promoting their sense of community safety.

Similar to the National Sex Offender Public Registry, SAVIN services augment existing neighborhood watch and community safety associations by providing another valuable tool for public safety.