



RICHARD CORDRAY
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Colleague:

Eleven years ago, Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) was implemented by the Ohio Attorney General's Office to empower victims and others affected by crime. VINE is a free, anonymous, computer-based service that provides anyone – victims, family members, neighbors, advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and the general public – access to the custody status of offenders in Ohio's jails, state prisons and youth services facilities. VINE access is available all day, every day, via phone or online at (800) 770-0192 or www.VINELink.com. VINE can also be used to receive telephone or e-mail notification if there is a change in an offender's custody status. As the result of a recently awarded federal grant, VINE soon will be able to provide notification for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction parole and supervised release process and the Intensive Prison Program.

Last year, VINE was utilized over one million times to check on the custody status of Ohio inmates or receive notification of changes in custody status. The success of VINE lies with offices such as yours that agree to support, utilize and promote it. To assist you in continued efforts to bring awareness of VINE to the citizens of your communities, we are sending you a packet of information. The packet includes general information about VINE, training materials (interactive web training also available at <http://appriss.elogiclearning.com>), and sample promotional materials available through our office that we hope you will distribute. Please replace existing materials with the new versions provided. Here are a few helpful marketing ideas to assist in this effort:

- Provide the toll-free number and VINELink Web site on all victim information - examples may include brochures, websites, training materials, etc.
- Hang posters within your office and the community.
- Distribute materials during special community events including awareness months, county fairs, criminal justice fairs and crime victim rights week.
- Hold media events highlighting VINE's service to the community.
- Advocates can distribute a tear pad sheet to victims while on the scene.

VINE is administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association.

Should you wish additional information on VINE, or if you would like to schedule a VINE training session, please contact the Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victims Assistance and Prevention Section at (800) 582-2877 or VINE@ohioattorneygeneral.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Cordray
Ohio Attorney General