



# Tulare County Sheriff's Department



## Media Alert

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**Sheriff Bill Wittman brings VINE/SAVIN program to Tulare County**  
*Statewide service offers added protection for crime victims, public*

**Media Alert**

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Tulare County residents now have fast access to custody information on offenders throughout Tulare County. Sheriff Bill Wittman has launched VINE/SAVIN, an automated service citizens can access, 24-hours-a-day either by telephone or the Internet.

“Protecting the citizens of Tulare County is always our highest priority,” said Sheriff Bill Wittman. “California VINE/SAVIN provides an added level of protection because it gives everyone access to timely and accurate information on offenders in our county, and throughout the state. We’re delighted that we could make this important service available to the public.”

People calling 1-877-411-5588 are asked to provide an offender’s name or booking number. After the system has provided the relevant custody information, it asks the caller if they would like to register to be automatically notified when the offender is released or transferred. Those choosing to register provide a phone number, and a four-digit personal identification number (PIN), which they will later use to confirm the notification call.

Live operator assistance is available round-the-clock for callers who have questions or require additional help. Citizens can also go on line at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) to locate and register.

“California VINE/SAVIN is definitely designed with the victim in mind. It’s very user-friendly,” Sheriff Bill Wittman said. “What makes it special is the automatic notification feature – as long as you’ve got a telephone or a computer, you can receive an automated alert anytime of the day or night. That kind of protection is critically important to anyone who’s concerned about the whereabouts of an offender.”

Since 2005, the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) grant program has nearly doubled the number of states providing automated victim notification.

The goal of the SAVIN program is to increase public safety and improve basic criminal 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 criminal justice process.

VINE/SAVIN is being offered to all California counties as a result of the funding received by the California State Sheriff’s Association through The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). As of this date, the service has been implemented in 41 counties.

VINE/SAVIN is a nationwide service used in more than 40 states. This includes some of the nation’s largest metropolitan areas, such as New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and Washington, D.C.

## About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field; developing collaborations and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning; streamlining the administration of grants; increasing training and technical assistance; creating accountability of projects; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision-makers at every level.

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