

## Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday System

Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday System (IowaVine) system was established by HF 619 (2005 Sex Offender Act). The automated victim notification system is maintained by the Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) of the [Office of the Attorney General](#). See the *Fiscal Topics* [Budget Unit: Office of the Attorney General](#) or [Crime Victim Assistance Division](#) for more information.

### Background

The IowaVine system allows crime victims to seek information and notification of change in custody status of an offender. Victims may register directly with the IowaVine system and may access the information either by a toll-free number (1-888-742-8463) or through the website: <https://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do>.

Victims may be notified by telephone, email, or text when an offender is moved between facilities, released to the community, escapes from custody, or dies while incarcerated. Notifications can be delivered in English, Spanish, Somali, and Bosnian. County jail booking system computer databases transfer data every 15 to 30 minutes (19 times daily for the Iowa Department of Corrections) to secure servers in Louisville, Kentucky. If there is a change in data for an offender from the previous data scan, the victim receives immediate notification of the change.

The CVAD implemented the system in December 2006. The computer-based system was deployed across Iowa, starting with county jails and the [Department of Corrections](#) (DOC).

Another component of the system is called the Iowa Protective Order Notification for Domestic Abuse (IPONDA) system. This system allows petitioners of civil protective orders and subjects of criminal no-contact orders to register for status updates including service and expiration of the order. Petitioners can register via the toll-free number (1-888-742-8463) or through the website at <https://www.registervpo.com/RegisterVPO/mapInitAction.do>.

Victims may be notified by telephone or email when a protective or no-contact order is served and/or 30 days before the order expires. The system is restricted for domestic violence petitioners, others deemed to be at risk by the abuser (respondent), advocates, and police officers. The IPONDA system is not open to the general public. Data is transferred from the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to the IPONDA system in real time as the data is being entered by the clerk of court offices.

The IPONDA system was developed and implemented in collaboration with the CVAD and the [Department of Human Rights](#), Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division (CJJPD). A grant award from the federal [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA) received by the CJJPD was used to develop and test the system. The system became fully operational in October 2012 and is maintained by the CVAD.

### Current Situation

There are 98 counties in Iowa connected to the IowaVine system. Of those, 85 jails have online photographs of offenders. Connectivity was established with the DOC in January 2008; the DOC also provides online photographs. There has been a steady increase in usage by victims since the inception of the IowaVine system in December 2006. All 99 county clerks of court are connected to the IPONDA system. The system has seen an increase in registrations and a marked increase in web traffic.

### More Information

IowaVine: <https://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do>

IPONDA: <https://www.registervpo.com/RegisterVPO/mapInitAction.do>

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault Website: <http://www.iowacasa.org/>

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence Website: [www.icadv.org](http://www.icadv.org)

Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance Website: [www.iowaiova.com](http://www.iowaiova.com)

Iowa Sexual Abuse hotline = 1-800-284-7821

Iowa Domestic Violence hotline = 1-800-942-0333

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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## Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) System

### Budget

The CVAD was awarded \$1.25 million in federal funds in FY 2007 to implement the IowaVine system. The funds were expended across three fiscal years. The CVAD was awarded a federal grant of \$333,000 for FY 2010 for enhancements, such as adding the capability to view the website in Spanish. No administrative or operating costs were permitted to be expended from this grant award. The grant funded the ability to send notification by text message and to add photographs of incarcerated offenders to the website. The Crime Victim Compensation Fund now covers the operating costs of the IowaVine and IPONDA systems (\$650,000 annually). The vendor, Appriss, Inc., continues to provide all of the hardware, software, and training necessary to maintain the IowaVine and IPONDA systems.

### Future Plans

The CVAD is focusing on increasing efficiencies as well as increasing outreach, awareness, and usage. The CVAD is reviewing the option of adding court notifications to the IowaVine system in the future. This will allow registered individuals to receive court information about hearing dates, sentencing hearings, and other various court dates. The CVAD is researching grants to fund this option.