



APNewsBreak: New tools available for SC victims

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COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - Crime victims in South Carolina now have new ways to get information about inmates, officials said Tuesday.

Text messaging and a mobile application have been added to the state's SC SAVIN system, which tracks the locations of offenders incarcerated in state or county facilities or under supervision by probation or parole authorities.

Crime victims can now sign up for phone and email notifications when an inmate in their case is moved or released from custody, Department of Corrections director Bryan Stirling told The Associated Press.

A mobile application called VINEmobile for smartphones and tablets will offer people a way to sign up for text alerts on inmates' activity. Alerts are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in English and Spanish.

A website also includes the inmate's photo and other vital information. The program is funded by assessments to inmates' wages, according to the Corrections Department.

Gov. Nikki Haley said that the new system gives people information to keep themselves safe.

"This effort by the Department of Corrections speaks volumes about the need to provide the most up-to-date information as quickly as possible and in a way that helps to ensure the public's safety," Haley said in a statement.

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