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**Domestic Violence Awareness Month a reminder that
protective order services more critical than ever**

VINE Protective Order® notifies victims when protective orders are served

Louisville, Ky. – Today begins the 22nd National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, commemorated annually in October to generate greater public awareness about domestic violence, prevention strategies, and effective responses for victims.

The year's theme for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, "End it Now," serves as a reminder that communities must speak out in a unified voice to combat domestic violence, and to challenge all people in America to support the many programs that can end this nationwide epidemic.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 1.3 million are victimized by domestic violence annually and an estimated 900,000 protective orders are issued each year. Of the countless petitioners who have been re-victimized or killed by their abusers, many didn't know whether their orders had been served.

In addition to assistance provided by the legal systems and victims' service programs, domestic violence victims in nine states now have access to potentially life-saving information through VINE Protective Order®.

Offered by Appriss, the VINE Protective Order service alerts petitioners by phone and e-mail when the order is served or there has been a failure to serve the order, and also provides reminders regarding upcoming hearings and the order's expiration. The system centralizes critical information for victims and law enforcement professionals with access 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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Victims of domestic violence often need the kind of timely information that VINE Protective Order provides.

“VINE Protective Order was designed to enhance safety, provide access to timely and accurate service information, and empower domestic violence victims.” said Dr. Jeni Gamble, director of VINE Protective Order and Court Services for Appriss. “Access to critical information empowers victims to gain a greater degree of control in their lives, report order violations more readily, and to make informed decisions about their safety.”

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was created in 1987 to promote increased rights and services for domestic violence victims; to educate the public about the crisis of domestic violence and the prevalence of this epidemic in all of our lives; and to encourage involvement and support from our community for domestic violence victims and those who serve them.

Appriss offers a National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resource Guide to help communities in their public awareness activities, available for download at www.appriss.com.

About Appriss

Appriss provides innovative technology solutions that help thousands of local, state, and Federal government agencies serve and protect their citizens. Its flagship product, VINE®, keeps crime victims informed on the custody or court status of their offender in more than 2,300 communities across the country. Other innovative services include Sex Offender Solutions, which help communities manage and inform citizens about sex offenders’ movements; and JusticeXchange®, the leading solution for connecting criminal justice agencies nationwide.

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