



## **Inmate tracker comforts victims**

*From staff reports*

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The S.C. Department of Corrections on Wednesday announced that the Statewide Victim Information and Notification service (SAVIN) is operational in 23 of the state's detention centers and work camps.

The automated service allows users to confirm that an offender is in jail or prison and provides custody status information. It allows crime victims to register for phone and e-mail notifications when changes to the custody status of an offender occur.

The round-the-clock service is available in English and Spanish.

"This system will assist in providing victims of crime more control over how and when they receive vital information regarding their offender's custody status," said Stephanie Cassavaugh, program manager for the SAVIN Program. "Knowing that they will receive a call automatically when an offender is being released from jail or prison can help a crime victim feel more in control and plan for their own safety."

The Spartanburg County Detention Facility is linked with SAVIN at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com).

According to a news release, more than 35,000 hits were recorded on that Web site and nearly 31,000 automated phone calls to victims in the state had been made as of June 8.

S.C. SAVIN was made possible by a grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Department of Corrections' automated victim information and notification system that has been operating since 2001 will become part of SAVIN later this year. The release said full implementation of the SAVIN service is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2009.

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