



HALE COUNTY

SHERIFF

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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 20, 2009.....Hale County residents now have fast access to custody information on offenders throughout Hale County. Sheriff Kenneth Ellis has launched VINE/SAVIN, an automated service citizens can access, 24 hours a day either by telephone or Internet. "Protecting the citizens of Hale County is always my highest priority," said Sheriff Ellis. "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 of Alabama. I am delighted that we could make this important service available to Hale County citizens."

People calling 1-877-VINE-4-AL (877-846-3425) 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 online to www.vinelink.com to locate and register.

"VINE/SAVIN is definitely designed with the victim in mind. It's very user-friendly," Sheriff Ellis said. "What makes it special is the automated 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. The goal of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (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," Sheriff Ellis said.