

Connecticut's Automated Victim Notification System and How Other States Notify Victims

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Issue

Briefly describe (1) Connecticut's Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system and (2) how other states notify victims.

Summary

Connecticut law requires the Judicial Branch to establish and implement a system to provide automatic notice of relevant offender information and status reports to registered crime victims ([CGS §§ 54-228 & -235](#)). The Connecticut SAVIN (CT SAVIN) system must be used to provide victim notification by the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS), Department of Correction's Victim Services Unit, Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Division of Criminal Justice.

Additionally, a 2019 NCSL 50-state [survey](#) provides an overview of victims' post-conviction rights, including the victim's right to be notified of a proceeding or an event. Depending on the jurisdiction, a victim may receive the notice by E-mail, telephone, or any other manner used by the state.

CT SAVIN Victim Notification

According to [OVS](#), CT SAVIN provides confidential notification (1) on an offender's criminal court case and (2) when a court order of protection is issued, changed, or ends. It also provides notification when an offender's custody status changes with the Department of Correction, which include an offender's:

1. scheduled release from prison,
2. release from prison,
3. escape from and return to prison,
4. release to the community,
5. transfer to a prison in another state,
6. parole hearing, and
7. release to parole.

Notification of criminal court cases also includes:

1. upcoming court hearings;
2. change in bail;
3. case transfer to juvenile court;
4. defendant's failure to appear at a court hearing;
5. plea hearing;
6. when the court orders, changes, or ends a family or non-family violence protective order, a standing criminal protective order, a civil protection order, and a restraining order;
7. case disposition (e.g., guilty, not guilty, dismissed, or nolle);
8. probation violation notice and decision;
9. sentence reduction decision;
10. appeal filed and appeal decision; and
11. cases severed and entered in error.

Registration

Crime victims and the public may register to receive notification. Registrations may be made in English or Spanish and may be done by telephone, online, or through a smartphone application. Among other things, registrants must select a 4-digit PIN.

Updates

Information on criminal court cases and custody status are sent to CT SAVIN three times a day (after 7:00 p.m. for any overnight activity, after 2:00 p.m. for any morning activity, and after 6:00 p.m. for any afternoon activity).

Notification

Notification calls are made when CT SAVIN has a match to offender information. Telephone calls are made every 30 minutes until CT SAVIN concludes that a call has been made (e.g., you or your answering machine answers the call). Registrants must enter the correct 4-digit PIN to let CT SAVIN know the message was received.

If the correct 4-digit PIN is not entered, telephone calls will be made every two hours, (up to 48 hours) until the victim enters the correct PIN. CT SAVIN phone calls will appear as a 502 area code. Calls from CT SAVIN are made between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Email notifications are sent once and are sent from vine@globalnotifications.com.

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