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MADIGAN: CRIME VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM ADDS TEXTING CAPABILITY

***Automated Victim Notification System Provides 24-Hour Access to
Information on Offenders' Custody and Case Status***

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that the state's Automated Victim Notification (AVN) system now offers text-message alerts for registered users.

The Illinois AVN system provides automated notices that allow registered users to track an offender's custody and court case status, including alerts when an offender is released, transferred or appears in court. Confidential notifications are offered in English and Spanish and can be delivered via phone or email and now text messages to crime victims, witnesses, family members, law enforcement officers, probation officers and concerned community members.

The system, which transfers information to a centralized communication center to generate individual alerts, provides updates about offenders in 101 Illinois counties. Cook County maintains its own notification system.

"For crime victims and their families, information provides peace of mind," said Attorney General Madigan. "Adding text alerts to the Automated Victim Notification system gives families one more way to ensure they stay informed."

Victims and the public can access AVN by calling 1-866-5-NOTIFY (1-866-566-8439) or visiting www.vinelink.com.

A federal Statewide Victim Information and Notification grant allowed the state to implement the new texting option. Users will be charged whatever rate they have with their mobile providers.

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