



**New Victim Notification Established through Interstate Compact
Offender Tracking System (ICOTS)
Webinar Question & Answer Session**

Q: How many states have begun implementation?

A: 16 states have requested user ID's for ICOTS VINEWatch.

Q. Now that this uniform system is in place so victims can be assured to receive notification will the current victim rule be changed?

A: Currently, there is not a proposal to change ICAOS Rules 3.108 or 3.108-1. Rule amendment proposals can be submitted for the Commission's consideration by majority vote of a standing committee or ICAOS Region. (See ICAOS Rule 2.109)

Q. Can states use the ICAOS web site victim's forum to ask questions or post information about their implementation process in their state?

A. Information regarding the ICAOS Victim's Advocate, Pat Tuthill, and a directory of state appointed victim's advocates as well as a website forum as accessible on the ICAOS website. <http://www.interstatecompact.org/>

Q. How is ICOTS VINEWatch funded?

A. As approved at the ICAOS Annual Business Meeting in 2012, ICOTS VINEWatch is available to states at no charge. Currently, the Commission pays \$4,000 per month for this service to its member states.

Q. Who is the best Point Of Contact in each state for victim advocates who want to help victims register for ICOTS notification? (from District of Columbia participant)?

A. The Compact Office (directory on ICAOS website) is best point of contact as in some states, they will handle the ICOTS VINEWatch registrations themselves or be able to direct you to the agency in their state who they have designated to register a victim in ICOTS VINEWatch. The Compact Office is also the best resource to describe how ICOTS business processes trigger the notifications. Currently, District of Columbia is not a user of ICOTS VINEWatch.

Q. How do victims receive notice their perpetrator is moving to another state? (from Texas participant)?

A. For states using ICOTS VINEWatch, once there is a record in ICOTS, a registration can be added in ICOTS VINEWatch. Subsequently, various ICOTS activities (Request for Transfer, Transfer Request Approval, Notification of Departure, Notification of Arrival, etc.) will trigger notifications to the registered victim. Currently, Texas is not a user of ICOTS VINEWatch.

Q. Clear delineation of how registration works, and when the service becomes available. Do we need software or approval for website access in order to get started? (from Washington participant)

A. The registrations are triggered exclusively from ICOTS activities. ICOTS VINEWatch was implemented in December 2013 and state compact offices request access or designate access by contacting the National Office. As it is a national database, users are limited to a small number per state. For information regarding your state's plan for implementing ICOTS VINEWatch, contact your state's compact office or Commissioner. Currently, Washington is not a user of ICOTS VINEWatch.