Overview of NV S.A.V.E.

And Nevada's Victim Notifications as a Whole

Nevada S.A.V.E. Notifications

CUSTODY NOTIFICATIONS FOR **S**URVIVORS, **A**DVOCATES, **V**ICTIMS & **E**NFORCEMENT

Discussion Overview

- Background on victim notifications, Marsy's Law, and Nevada's new NV S.A.V.E. program
- Open vs. Closed Systems
- Barriers
- Future of Nevada's victim notifications

Evolution of Victim Notification in the U.S.

These four milestones are foundational to understanding why automated victim notification systems exist today. They tell a story of how the criminal justice system moved from recognizing victims' rights to developing technology that helps protect those rights.

Historical timeline

1982 — Victim and Witness Protection Act

Congress formally recognized the need to improve how federal crime victims and witnesses were treated and informed throughout criminal proceedings. It established an early legislative foundation for victim assistance and notification.

1993 — The murder of Mary Byron

On December 6, 1993, Mary Byron was murdered by her former boyfriend on her 21st birthday in Louisville, Kentucky. He had been released from jail, but Mary and her family were not notified despite having requested notification.

Her death exposed a critical gap in victim safety and directly inspired the creation of VINE, the first automated victim notification system, in Jefferson County, Kentucky, in 1994.

1994 — Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act

This federal legislation further strengthened the national framework for victim notification and correctional responsibilities, particularly information involving offenders in federal custody.

2001–2002 — Federal Victim Notification System (VNS)

The U.S. Department of Justice implemented VNS to coordinate notifications across federal investigative, prosecutorial, and correctional agencies. It became fully operational in January 2002.

2005–2006 — Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN)

Congress funded an initiative to help states build or improve statewide automated notification programs. The Bureau of Justice Assistance developed program standards addressing governance, interoperability, and victim-centered service delivery.

2010 — Nevada SAVIN grant

Nevada's Attorney General's Office received federal SAVIN funding to implement a statewide automated notification service, leading to statewide Nevada VINE operations.

2018 — Nevada's Marsy's Law

Nevada voters approved constitutional victims' rights protections, including specific notification, safety, information, and participation rights.

History of Victim Notification in Nevada

Historically, crime victims often had to contact individual law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, correctional institutions, or parole authorities to learn whether an offender had been transferred, released, or escaped custody.

This placed much of the responsibility for obtaining information on victims, sometimes when that information was essential to their personal safety.

Nevada's statewide automated notification initiative began before Marsy's Law.

2010 — Federal funding

The Nevada Attorney General's Office received a Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) grant through the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement a statewide service.

2013 — Statutory foundation

Nevada enacted NRS 228.205, establishing a victim notification system within the Office of the Attorney General.

2018 — Marsy's Law approved

Nevada voters approved expanded constitutional rights for crime victims, strengthening expectations for notification, participation, privacy, and protection.

2025 — Modernization

Nevada enacted AB 45, updating statutory references to its victim notification system and its governance structure.

August 28, 2025 — NV S.A.V.E. launch

Nevada transitioned from VINE to Nevada S.A.V.E. Notifications, with a short overlap before the previous system was retired.

Marsy’s Law

Marsy's Law is named after Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, a California college student murdered in 1983. The movement for victims' constitutional rights was established in response to experiences demonstrating how victims and their families could be excluded from, or inadequately informed about, important criminal justice decisions. California became the first state to adopt Marsy's Law in 2008. Other states followed, including Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Florida, Georgia, and Nevada.

Nevada approved its version of Marsy's Law on November 6, 2018, with more than 61% voter support.

It established 17 enumerated victims' rights under **Article 1, Section 8A of the Nevada Constitution**.

Key rights related to notification

- Victims have constitutional protections involving:
- **Information:** Being informed of the defendant's conviction, sentence, incarceration, scheduled release, or escape, upon request where specified.
- **Participation:** Receiving reasonable notice of covered proceedings, being present, and being heard at specified proceedings involving release and sentencing.
- **Safety:** Having their safety considered during bail and release decisions.
- **Privacy:** Protecting confidential information that could be used to locate, harass, or intimidate them.
- **Respect:** Being treated with fairness and dignity throughout criminal and juvenile justice proceedings.

An important distinction is that certain notification and participation rights are exercised **upon request**. Victims should be informed how to assert these rights and register for relevant services.

Marsy’s Law relation to NV S.A.V.E.

Marsy's Law establishes constitutional rights. NV S.A.V.E. provides technology that helps support a subset of those rights.

NV S.A.V.E. primarily addresses offender custody information and notifications. It does not replace the legal obligations of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, victim advocates, or correctional agencies to provide other information or services required by law.

For example, custody release notifications may be delivered through NV S.A.V.E., while courtroom scheduling and participation rights may still require communication directly with a prosecutor's office or victim advocate.

That distinction is particularly important when explaining the program's responsibilities, limitations, and future development.

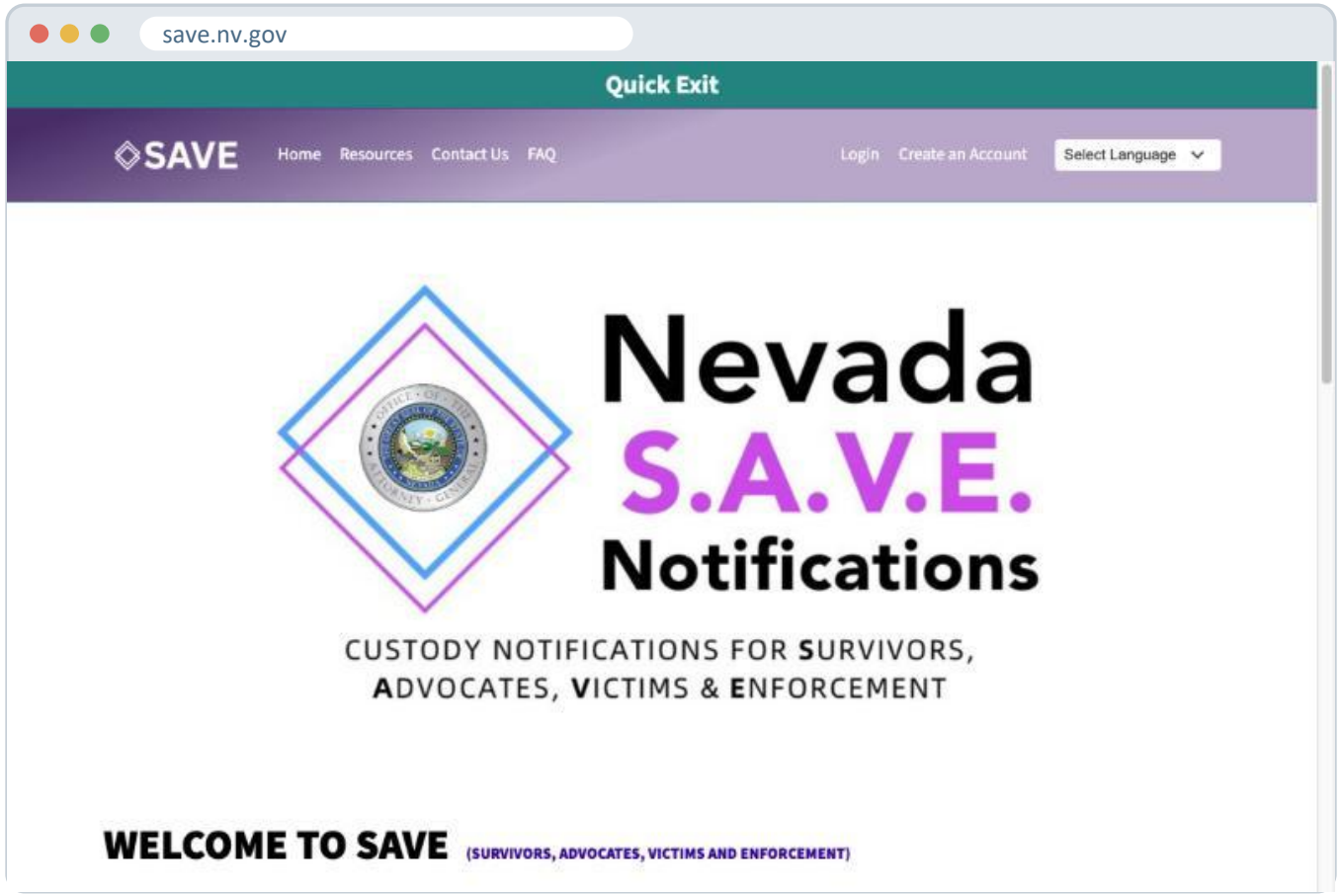
NV S.A.V.E (Survivors, Advocates, Victims, and Enforcement)

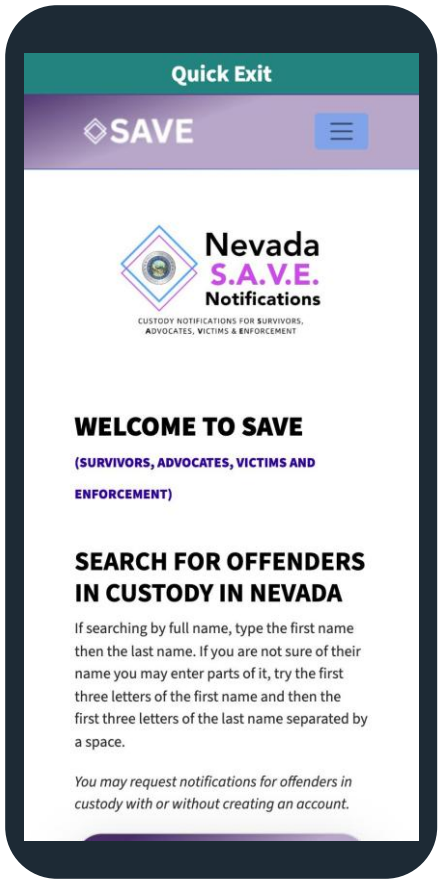
NV S.A.V.E. replaced Nevada's Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) platform.
Its central purpose is to help victims, survivors, advocates, and members of the public receive information regarding an offender's custody status without repeatedly registering for separate incidents or custody transfers.

How VINE and NV S.A.V.E. differ

Feature	Previous VINE	NV S.A.V.E.
Notification model	Incident-based	Offender-based
Registration	Could require separate registrations for new incidents	Designed around one registration per offender
Agency transfers	Greater potential for fragmented tracking	Designed to maintain notification continuity across participating Nevada agencies
Notification options	Phone, email, text	Phone, email, text, with accessibility features
User preferences	More limited customization	Customizable notification schedules and blackout dates
Data ownership	Previous vendor-based service arrangement	State of Nevada owns NV S.A.V.E. system data

Nevada S.A.V.E. today: what the public sees at save.nv.gov





Live public portal at save.nv.gov, captured November 9, 2026.

1 Quick Exit

Leave the site in one click from every page

2 No account needed

Anonymous offender search, as Nevada law requires

3 Works on any phone

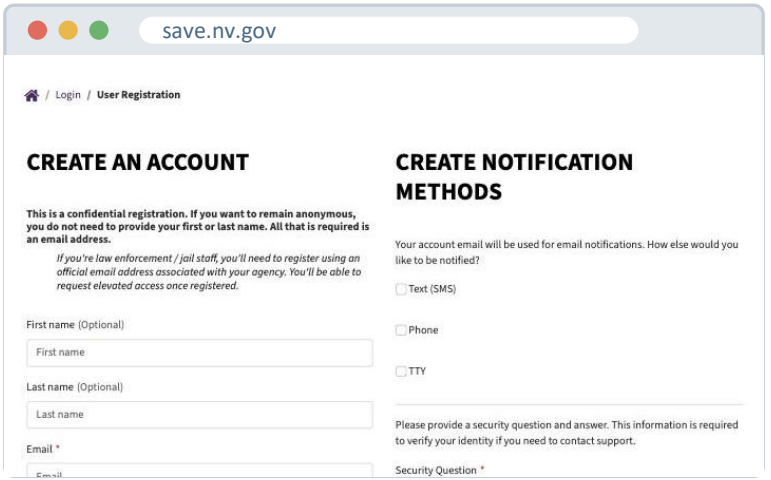
The same portal adapts to a mobile screen

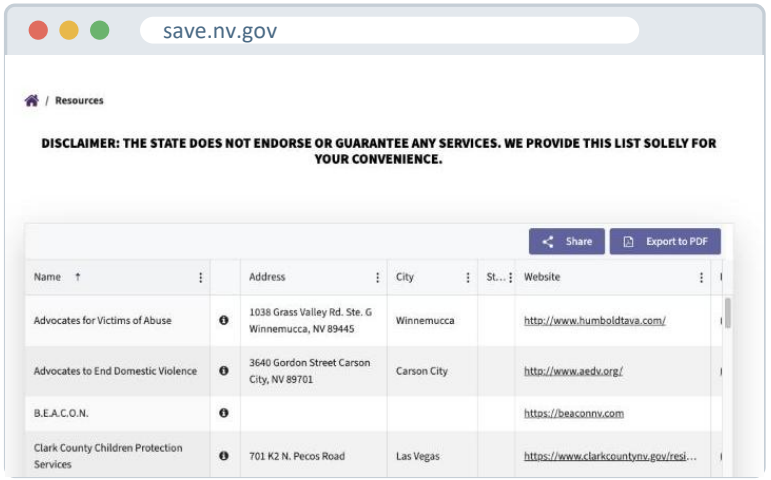
4 Help around the clock

Toll-free line 866-393-5445 and NVSave@ag.nv.gov

Search, register and find help in a few steps







1 Find an offender

- Full name, partial name or ID number
- Request notifications with or without an account

2 Register confidentially

- Only an email address is required
- Add text, phone or TTY alerts
- Agency staff can request elevated access

3 Find help nearby

- Directory of victim services across Nevada
- Share the list or export it to PDF

Screens from the live portal at save.nv.gov, November 9, 2026. Search results are not shown, to protect privacy.

Open vs. Closed Systems

For Nevada S.A.V.E., the question of an open versus closed system is fundamentally about **who can access offender information, who can register for notifications, and what information should be available to each type of user.**

Nevada currently operates an open-access notification model with some restricted features. However, that does not mean every aspect of the program must remain publicly accessible.

The most practical policy question is whether Nevada can maintain broad access to essential custody notifications while restricting sensitive information, specialized notifications, or other functions.

Benefits of an open system

- An open system provides a significant benefit for victims who need information immediately and may not have an established relationship with a victim advocate or prosecuting agency.
- It can also help family members, witnesses, and others who have legitimate safety concerns but may not qualify for formal victim status.
- The ability to register anonymously can be especially important for victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault who may not want to disclose their identities or personal circumstances.

Barriers of an open system

- The primary concerns involve privacy, unauthorized use of publicly accessible information, and opportunities for bulk data collection or harassment.
- There is also a difference between information being legally public and making that same information continuously searchable and available for automated alerts.
- A public notification platform may make existing information more convenient to access and monitor, potentially increasing privacy risks without necessarily disclosing new categories of information.

Benefits of a closed system

- A closed system allows agencies to better manage access to sensitive records and provide information based on a person's role or relationship to a case.
- It may also support notifications that would be inappropriate for general distribution, including certain victim-specific case information or protected information.

Barriers of a closed system

- A closed system introduces an important operational challenge: **someone must determine who is authorized to receive information.**
- That can require verification procedures, staff time, additional documentation, and processes for resolving disputed or changing eligibility.
- A victim who needs an immediate alert could face delays while eligibility is established. A closed system may also compromise the ability to register anonymously if not designed carefully.

Open and closed notification systems

Open

Anyone can register on the public portal

- Search and register without agency review
- Registration takes effect right away
- Fits custody-status information the law makes public

Closed

The monitoring agency approves who is notified

- Agency confirms the registrant is a victim
- Agency can approve or decline each request
- Protects confidential victim information

Hybrid (recommended)

Open where the law is public, closed where notice belongs to victims

- Public portal and search stay open
- Corrections, parole and pardon notices need approval
- One portal, one record, one set of reports

A hybrid lets Nevada keep public access and still control who receives victim-only notices.

Barriers – Staffing Insufficiencies

A statewide program dependent on one individual

- If the ombudsman is the only dedicated individual overseeing NV S.A.V.E., that creates a significant single-person dependency for statewide program coordination.
- The responsibilities extend well beyond overseeing a software application. They potentially include coordinating agency participation, responding to system issues, working with vendors, communicating with victims and advocates, supporting training, monitoring data quality, and maintaining operational relationships.

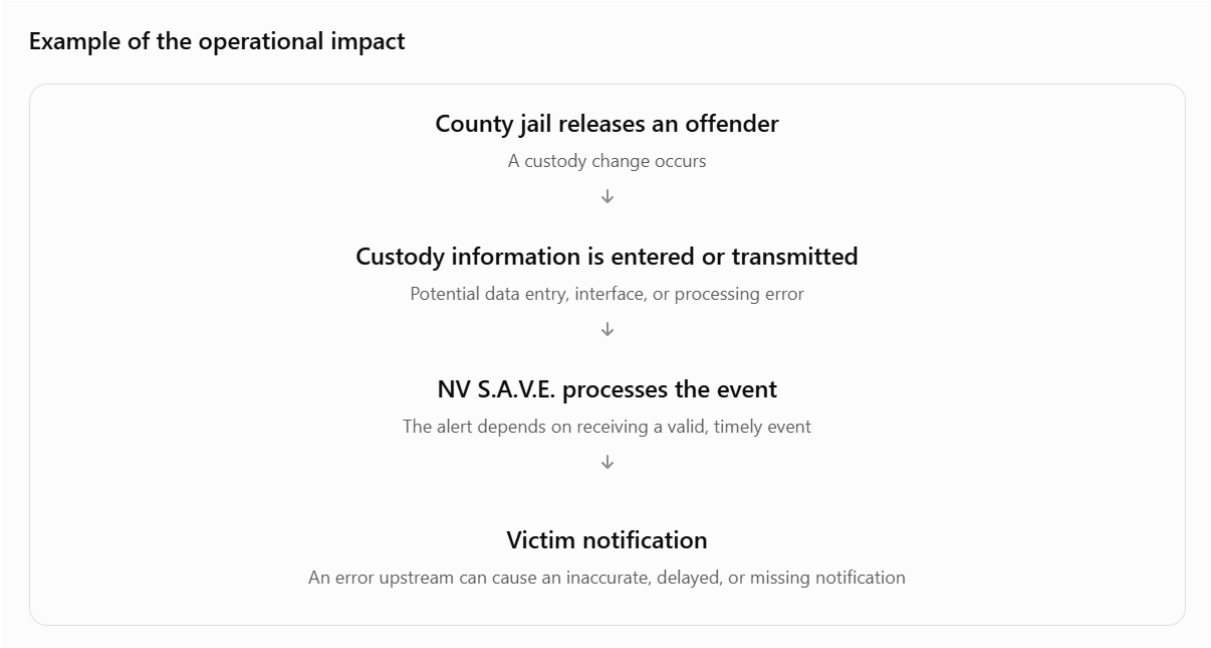
Key challenges:

- **Single point of failure:** Absences, turnover, emergencies, or competing responsibilities could interrupt program oversight.
- **Limited statewide support:** One individual cannot realistically provide continuous operational assistance to every participating agency without additional support structures.
- **Competing priorities:** The ombudsman's statutory responsibilities extend beyond NV S.A.V.E., including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking matters.
- **Inconsistent training:** Counties may have different staffing models, processes, and levels of familiarity with the notification system.
- **Program sustainability:** Institutional knowledge concentrated in one individual creates continuity and succession risks.

Barriers – Human Error

Automated notifications are only as reliable as the information feeding the system.

- Even with an automated platform, people remain involved in creating, updating, validating, and correcting offender custody information.
- A sheriff's office may use a different jail management system, workflow, staffing arrangement, or reporting process than another county.
- Potential problems include incorrect offender identifiers, delayed custody updates, inconsistent data entry, incomplete transfer information, or failure to recognize an unsuccessful interface transmission.



Human error cannot be entirely eliminated. The objective should be to design processes that detect errors quickly and prevent a single mistake from creating a larger public safety consequence.

Potential controls include automated data validation, failed-transmission alerts, custody-event reconciliation, standardized agency procedures, and documented escalation protocols.

Central concern: Automation reduces manual work, but it does not eliminate the need for human oversight and accountability.

Barriers – Frontier Internet Capabilities

Geography creates an unequal technological environment.

- Nevada's 17 counties vary tremendously in population, geography, financial resources, and technology infrastructure.
- Nevada's broadband planning identifies 14 counties as rural or frontier. These communities face greater infrastructure challenges, and the state's broadband expansion strategy directs substantial resources toward underserved areas.

This matters to NV S.A.V.E. in two ways.

- **Agency connectivity:** A rural jail or sheriff's office may experience insufficient bandwidth, intermittent connectivity, aging infrastructure, or limited technical support. Depending on how its system connects to NV S.A.V.E., these conditions could delay the transmission of custody events.
- **Victim connectivity:** Victims living in rural and frontier communities may have unreliable internet or cellular service, reducing their ability to register online, check offender status, or receive electronic notifications promptly.

Nevada's own broadband strategy recognizes substantial variations in service availability between urban and rural communities.

Importantly, poor local broadband does not automatically mean that NV S.A.V.E. notifications fail. Actual impacts depend on interface architecture, retry processes, delivery channels, and available telecommunications infrastructure. Those details should be assessed rather than assumed.

Potential Program Expansions

- Advocate Portal
- Closing portions of the System
- Grants Modules
- Courts/TPOs
- Case Management Integration

Potential Program Expansions

1. Advocate Portal
A secure workspace for authorized victim advocates
Establish a dedicated portal that allows approved advocates to assist victims with registration, manage authorized notification preferences, access appropriate case-related information, and coordinate services.
Potential benefits: More consistent victim support, reduced administrative duplication, and improved coordination between advocacy organizations and criminal justice agencies.
Primary barrier: Verifying advocate authorization, protecting client confidentiality, managing consent, and avoiding inappropriate disclosure of victims' identities.

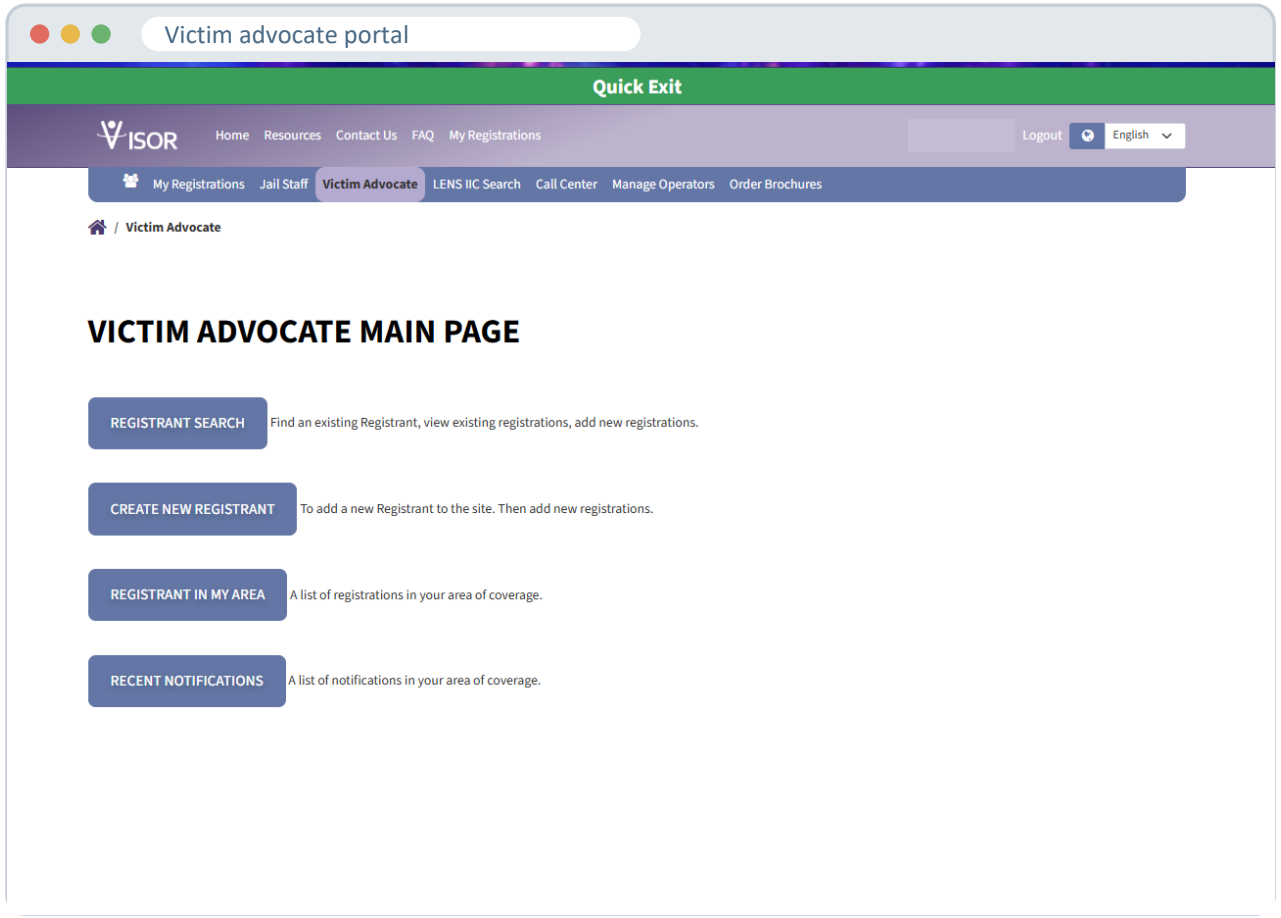
2. Closing Portions of the System
A hybrid public and restricted-access model
Maintain public access to essential offender custody notifications while restricting selected data, specialized functions, and victim-sensitive information to authorized individuals.
Potential benefits: Enhanced privacy, better data protection, reduced misuse of information, and opportunities to provide more detailed services to verified users.
Primary barrier: Nevada law expressly allows members of the public to register for custody notifications. Restrictions would need to preserve statutory access and victims' rights.

3. Grants Modules
Improved administration of victim services funding
Explore a centralized grants management capability for funding applications, awards, reimbursements, reporting, compliance, and performance measures relating to victim services.
Potential benefits: Reduced manual administration, improved accountability, better grant reporting, and greater statewide visibility into funded services.
Primary barrier: Expanded program scope, federal grant requirements, agency responsibilities, and potential duplication of existing state grants management systems.

4. Courts and Temporary Protection Orders (TPOs)
Connecting victims with critical court and protection-order information
Explore integrations with court systems to provide eligible victims with notifications about hearing dates, case status changes, protection orders, and relevant judicial decisions.
Potential benefits: Better support for victims exercising rights under Marsy's Law, fewer missed hearings, and improved awareness of protection-order developments.
Primary barrier: Independent court systems, confidential and sealed records, judicial authority, differing county processes, and the complexity of determining which information can lawfully be disclosed.

5. Case Management Integration
Connecting existing systems rather than requiring duplicate entry
Evaluate secure interfaces with prosecutors' case management applications, victim advocacy systems, law enforcement records, and other authorized justice systems.
Potential benefits: Improved information continuity, fewer duplicate processes, more timely updates, and reduced opportunities for manual errors.
Primary barrier: Inconsistent local technology, system compatibility, data quality, security restrictions, and the cost of maintaining integrations.

The victim advocate portal: one place to serve victims



1. **Registrant search**

   Find a registrant, view their registrations, add new ones

2. **Create new registrant**

   Register a victim with the victim, then add registrations

3. **Registrants in my area**

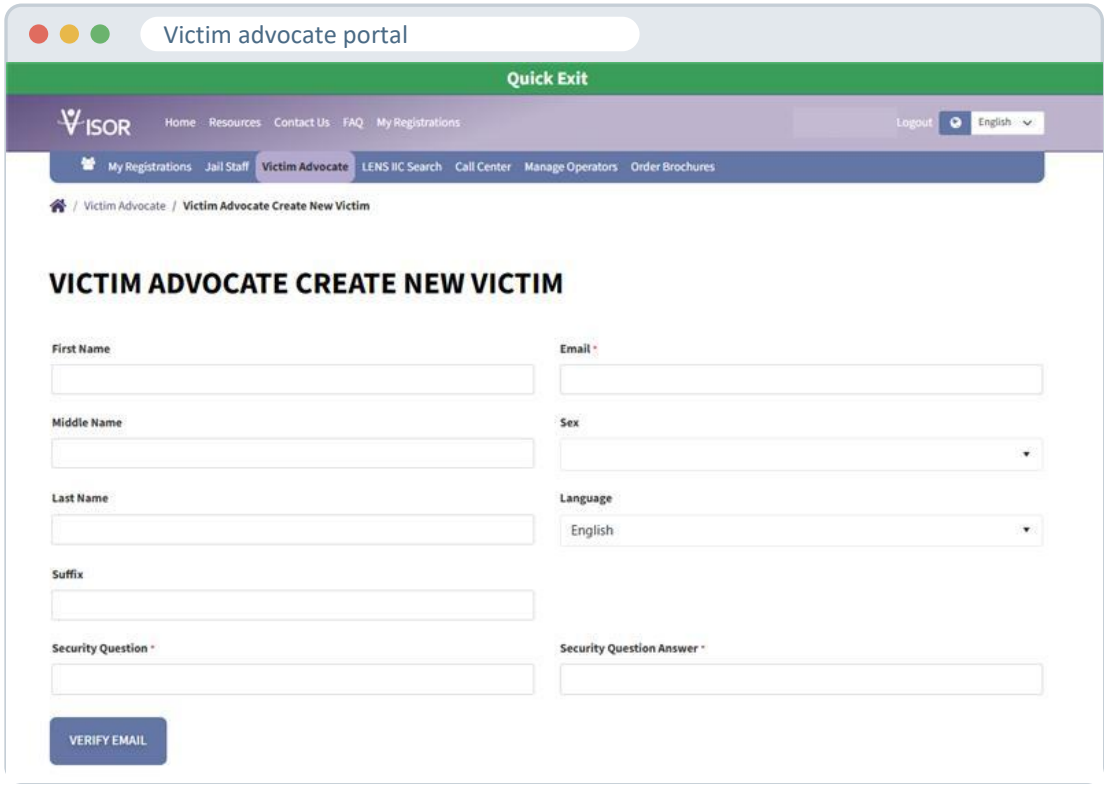
   See who is registered in your area, and who may need outreach

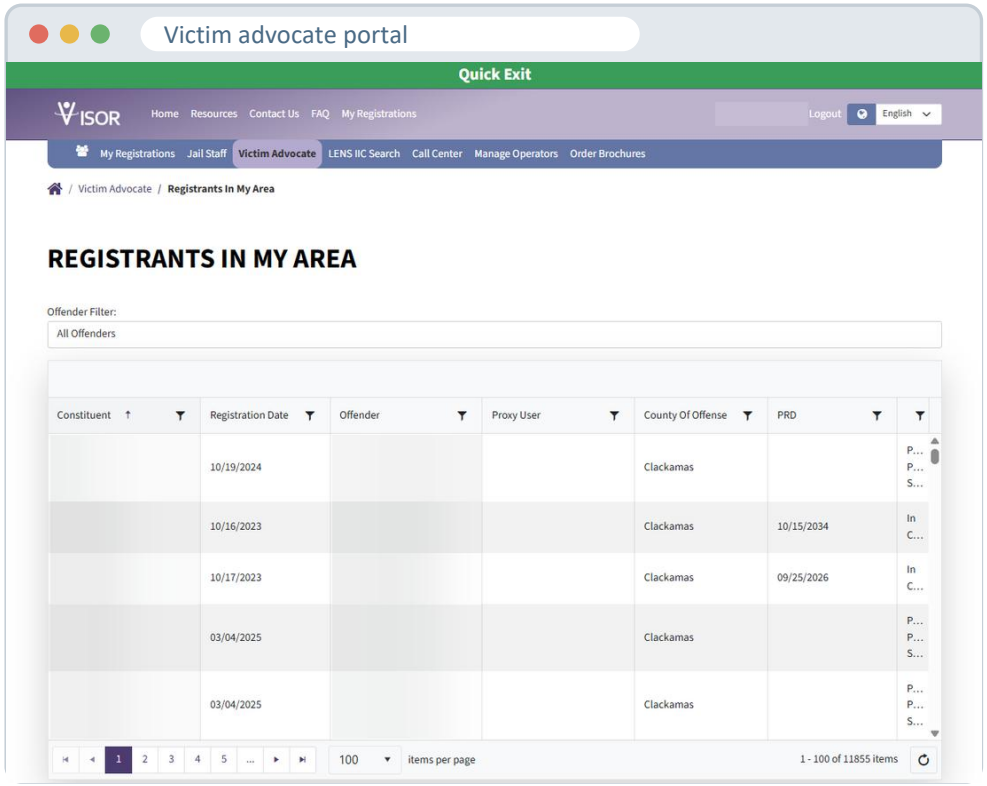
4. **Recent notifications**

   See what was sent in your area, when, and how

Shown from a state already using the Victim Services Suite; names are blurred. Nevada's portal would carry Nevada S.A.V.E. branding.

Register victims and see who still needs outreach





1 **Register with the victim**

Name, email, language and a security question; email verified first

2 **Registrants in my area**

Who is registered in your coverage area, and who may need outreach

Shown from a state already using the Victim Services Suite; names are blurred.



Sylogist

Thank you

Questions and discussion

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Scan to open save.nv.gov