

**CRIME FIGHTING TEXT MESSAGING TIP SERVICE  
LAUNCHED BY CLAY COUNTY CRIMESTOPPERS, CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE AND SPENCER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

For the first time, mobile phone users throughout Clay County, now have the ability to provide anonymous crime fighting tips through the power of anonymous text messaging and WebTips. Spencer Police Department and the Clay County Sheriff's Office along with Clay County Crimestoppers have joined together to provide this service which allows citizens to send anonymous tips by sending a text message from a mobile phone or online.

"The popularity of text messaging has created a significant opportunity for the public to help law enforcement agencies fight crime," said Mark Lawson, Chief of Police. "The ability for any citizen who owns a mobile phone to assist in crime solving is of great importance to communities globally and we are excited to play such a pivotal role in the transmission of these crime fighting tips."

"I have been a law enforcement officer for over 35 years and this is by far the most innovative, progressive tool I have ever seen in my career," said Randy Krukow, Clay County Sheriff. "There is no doubt that this program will dramatically increase our crime solving capabilities!"

Using TipSoft Text Tips, information may be anonymously received and securely replied to with complete confidence. The service was built specifically to allow text messaging informants to remain anonymous by encrypting the text messages and routing them through several secure servers, protecting the personal details of the informant.

TipSoft SMS also allows police to respond by text message to the originating cell phone without ever knowing the identity of the individual who left the tip. The user's information is always given an alias and a unique ID before being sent. This secure application allows the tipster and the investigator to have two-way dialog while always keeping the user's identity completely anonymous.

The Spencer Police Department and the Clay County Sheriff's Office encourages everyone to report information about any non-urgent illegal activity, such as unsolved cases, vandalism, theft, the sale and distribution of drugs or information about crimes that are being planned in the community or schools.

To report a tip by texting you must text to **274637 (CRIMES)** and then enter **CSI21**. Law Enforcement wants to remind you this still is not a substitute for 911. Crimestoppers can also still be reached by 262-6655. Further information may be obtained by going to the Clay County Sheriff's Office website ([www.claycountysheriffsoffice.com](http://www.claycountysheriffsoffice.com)) and Spencer Police Department's website ([www.spenceriowacity.com](http://www.spenceriowacity.com)).

TipSoft is currently used by several other law enforcement agencies in the State of Iowa.

**Tax free donations may be sent to Crimestoppers, PO Box 7957, Spencer, Iowa 51301**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Spencer Police Department – Mark Lawson, Chief – 712-262-2151 or [cops@smnnet.net](mailto:cops@smnnet.net)  
Clay County Sheriff's Office – Randy Krukow, Sheriff – 712-262-3221 or [clayshrf@co.clay.ia.us](mailto:clayshrf@co.clay.ia.us)