

The Massachusetts Probation Service



Electronic Monitoring Program Fact Sheet 2014

What is the Electronic Monitoring Program?

The Massachusetts Probation Service's Electronic Monitoring Program was first established in April 2001 as an alternative to incarceration and to provide structure, control, and accountability of probationers and parolees who were sentenced to house arrest by a judge or the Parole Board. The program also provides an extra layer of supervision with the goal of enhancing public safety in the community.

Massachusetts was one of the first states to monitor probationers and select parolees using the Electronic Bracelet. Each Probation Department is equipped with an electronic monitoring device and can be accessed immediately following a judge's order. The Probation Officer is responsible for the supervision of their assigned probationers who are placed on the Massachusetts Probation Service Electronic Monitoring Program.

There are two types of bracelets: the Radio Frequency Bracelet, which is used as a form of house arrest, and the GPS Bracelet, used to track an offender's whereabouts in real time.



Monitoring Center

Main Number: **978-365-2970**

Toll-Free: **866-490-1166**

Hours of Operation:

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

How does the GPS Monitoring Bracelet Work?

In May 2005, the Electronic Monitoring Program expanded to include the Global Positioning System (GPS) Bracelet to track sex offenders. The GPS consists of 24 satellites orbiting the earth. It determines the location of offenders wearing the receiver 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system has the ability to create an inclusion (approved) or exclusion (banned) zones as ordered by the judge or Parole Board.

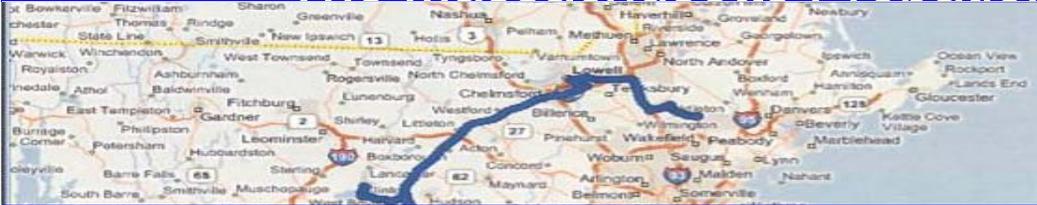
If an offender enters an area where they have been restricted from, an alert will go off. A Probation employee will contact the offender on a specialized GPS cell to determine why they entered and to instruct them to leave.



The Massachusetts Probation Service Programs Division

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The Electronic Monitoring Program Operations

Bracelet Protocol

- If an offender leaves his or her home at a time not authorized by a judge, an alert (auditory and visual) will register in the ELMO Command Center.
- If the bracelet is tampered with (banged or removed), a sensor indicates a violation and probation is alerted.
- If the Probationer absconds, a warrant is issued for their arrest.

The Electronic Monitoring Program headquarters and daily operations are managed by the Programs Division of the Massachusetts Probation Service. The program ' s central office is located in Clinton and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The Electronic Monitoring Program is staffed by a team of Probation employees. Probation Officers at various courts throughout the Commonwealth are responsible for hooking up the electronic bracelet on the probationer.

In the event of a violation or when an offender has absconded, the monitoring center notifies the court, Chief Probation Officer or supervising parole officer. An arrest warrant is then issued for the offender. The warrant protocol is applicable for both systems, RF (Radio Frequency) and GPS (Global Positioning System) statewide.

The GPS system features two separate equipment packages. There is a one-piece GPS Offender tracking device which has a 24-hour battery life and GPS built into the bracelet to issue alerts if an offender travels beyond court-approved range. A two-piece tracking device features an electronic bracelet and a multi-functional device which also communicates with satellites and transmits the location of the offender to the Electronic Monitoring Center as well as enables two-way voice communication. Both units provide 24-hour-a-day, seven-day,a-week tracking capabilities. The units cost \$4.30 per day for the one-piece unit and \$5.50 for the two-piece unit.



The Office of the Commissioner of Probation

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP) serves as the central administrative office for the Massachusetts Probation Service.

One Ashburton Place, Room 405, Boston, MA 02108

For information about the Electronic Monitoring Program, contact:

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