

The Massachusetts Probation Service



An Agency of Firsts

Nation's First:

The Massachusetts Probation Service was the first Probation agency established in the United States in 1878. The Probation concept was introduced by John Augustus.

First to track restraining order violators:

Massachusetts Probation was the first agency to create a national Restraining Order Registry in 1978 to track domestic violence offenders and share information about these offenders with law enforcement and affiliate partners.

Creation of Model Community Supervision Efforts:

In 1994, Probation created Operation Nitelite— a successful model of community supervision— which pairs Probation Officers with local police who go out into the community to the homes and haunts of offenders. During special operations, Probation Officers also work collaboratively with state and federal law enforcement agencies on warrant sweeps.

Introduction to Successful Electronic Monitoring Program:

- The agency was among the first states to track offenders using the GPS monitoring bracelet in 2001 as an alternative to incarceration.
- Four years later, in 2005, Massachusetts Probation became one of the first states to track high-risk offenders using the GPS monitoring bracelet and among a few states to perform its own monitoring of offenders using the system.
- Massachusetts was the first state to monitor domestic violence offenders using the GPS bracelet and has served as a catalyst for states such as Connecticut and Illinois which have used the Massachusetts Probation Service as a model.
- Probation became one of the few states to use crime correlation, a tracking system to determine if a person is at or in the vicinity of a crime scene.