

From the Office of the Sheriff:

The Dodge County Detention Facility (DCDF) Home Monitoring Program is an alternative way, for eligible jail inmates, to serve their sentence. This program utilizes Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology, allowing jail staff to monitor inmate movement while being housed at the inmates' personal residence. The inmate's home becomes an extension of the DCDF. This program, which has been in place since the late 1990's in its current form, provides many benefits for the inmates, their families and employers, as well as the Dodge County taxpayer.

Routinely, people that are sentenced to county jail time are granted Work Release or Huber Privileges by the Courts. Ordinarily, those sentenced with Huber or Work Release privilege are housed at the Detention Facility's Huber Center. We allow them to work, attend school, or have child care, to leave the Huber Center for up to 12 hours each day and then return. The Home Monitor Program allows for selected inmates to exercise this same privilege while restricted to their homes during the same hours they would have been housed at the Huber Center.

Inmates must submit a Home Monitor Application. An objective classification system is used as part of this process. The classification system awards points based on criminal history, institutional behavior, and current charges. Other areas reviewed include what are called "stability issues" such as; length of employment, child care needs, and compatibility of residence to Home Monitor Equipment. Special needs are also considered such as health related issues that might make an individual better suited to serve their sentence while confined in their home.

Those selected to serve their sentences enrolled in the Home Monitor Program must adhere to strict rules that govern their behavior, just as if they were serving time at the DCDF. All movement outside the home must be pre-approved by a Programs Officer and their movement is then monitored through the use of the GPS technology. Each inmate is assigned a Tracking Device that collects data that is accessed by our staff for review, to determine if the inmate is complying with the approved schedule or in violation. Also, inmates are assigned a Sobriotor. The Sobriotor requires inmates on the program to submit to random breath tests that will alert Officers at the Detention Facility if the inmate is using alcohol.

The Home Monitoring Program is designed for offenders who pose a minimal risk to the community, yet whose behavior or criminal history indicate an acceptable risk and be housed at their residence during their sentenced incarceration with Huber or Work Release privilege. The program can also be used for offenders who have special needs or problems that may be better handled in their home environment.

All costs associated with GPS are paid by the inmate. It is significantly cheaper monitoring a non-violent offender on GPS vs. housing them within the jail. Dodge County prides itself on a strict policy to ensure this program does not jeopardize public safety and security. tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us

