



ELECTRONIC SUPERVISION BULLETIN

REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Electronic Supervision (ES) technology is not always suitable for individuals residing in remote locations as ES is dependent on reliable Global Positioning System (GPS) and requires cellular coverage to monitor location information.

When conditions requiring ES are proposed as a condition of release for an individual residing in a remote community, the following limitations should be considered:

General Limitations:

- Monitoring exclusion zones (“no-go” conditions) requires regular access to cellular service. When cellular service is not consistently available in a community, exclusion zone conditions cannot be monitored.
- While cellular coverage in BC continues to expand, there are many communities outside the larger urban centres where it remains inconsistent or non-existent.
- Local Managers at Community Corrections Offices are available to confer with defence and Crown regarding the availability of sufficient cellular service to support ES within specific communities.
- ES is particularly unsuitable for individuals working on fishing vessels or in isolated work camps due to the absence of a consistent cellular signal.
- Curfew conditions may be monitored without cellular service only when there is stable Wi-Fi and a landline telephone in the residence of the individual being monitored. In these instances, movements outside the individual’s residence cannot be monitored.
- When an individual is in an area that does not have cellular service, the ES anklet device constantly searches for a cellular connection, quickly draining the battery and therefore requires more frequent charging by the individual.
- Inconsistent access to Wi-Fi in remote communities does not allow for ES in the absence of cellular service (i.e., mainstream internet providers such as Shaw, TELUS, and Rogers, do not service many remote

communities. Internet providers in these remote communities offer more expensive and less reliable services).

- There are operational challenges related to probation officers' availability to travel to remote communities to conduct the required home visit to assess the technical suitability of ES or to address technical/maintenance issues with ES devices. Additionally, winter travel to remote communities can be dangerous and is sometimes impossible due to weather conditions in these areas.
- Police services may not be readily available to respond to ES alerts in remote communities.
- ES is sometimes proposed as an added safeguard to deter reoffending or protect victims. In reality, this technology cannot stop an individual from committing a crime. In cases involving violent offences (e.g., intimate partner violence, sexually-motivated offences), ES cannot stop an individual from having contact with the victim.

Request to Consider Electronic Supervision form:

- Defence counsel completes the "[*Request to Consider Electronic Supervision form*](#)" when requesting the court consider ES as a condition. This provides the court and the probation officer important information to determine the appropriateness of the request for ES as a condition.

Technical Suitability Report:

- Requested by the court after receiving the Request to Consider ES form, the TSR assesses the suitability of the client's residence/geographic location, personal circumstances, previous compliance, and other situational factors that may impact ES.
- The optimal time required to complete a TSR is ten business days.

Questions about BC Corrections' Electronic Supervision program can be directed to Micheal Larocque, Policy and Program Analyst, at Micheal.Larocque@gov.bc.ca