

# Electronic chip monitoring

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## Introduction

I have been interested for many years about how convicted felons, particularly child sex offenders, are monitored when and if they are released. Currently we have three systems in place to monitor criminals. Passive systems where the individual is contacted by phone and must provide a password or use a fingerprint or retinal scan to prove that it is them. Active systems where the individual is required to wear a device that omits a continuous signal and will alert authorities if the wearer is too far from home or breaks the device. Global positioning systems use satellites, ground stations and mobile user devices. This measures the users distance from three different satellites to identify the users location. These systems are good at locating someone at a given time however it doesn't stop the crime they may or may not be about to commit.

According to Kelly Richards from the Australian Institute of Criminology many child sex offenders do not seek out their victims and only take the opportunity when it is presented.

[1]

In a report by the Daily Mail's Nic White, in March of this year, it was said that almost half of convicted paedophiles reoffended within in four years of their release or conviction. [2]

In saying this however, many studies have shown that it is a hard thing to measure as many cases are not reported and many of the studies have only been taken on over a short period of time. (Misperceptions about child sex offenders, 2011, Richards) [1]

## Description

My project idea is about being able to monitor released criminals before they are able to commit another crime, in particular child sex offenders.

I believe that while ankle bracelets are good they can be removed so I am proposing a chip that gets imbedded under their skin. The chip would have GPS tracking and would also track their vital signs.

Before they are released from prison people like paedophiles should all be fitted with this chip so authorities could track their every movements. The authorities will then know if they are close to a school or place where there are children.

As, in many cases, child sexual offences are a crime of opportunity the chip could also give a warning to the wearer that they are entering or getting close to a "forbidden zone" and should therefore should remove themselves from the situation.

Putting the chip somewhere like the back of the neck ensures that they cannot remove it ..... at least by themselves.

The chip will have stored on it the no-go zones for a particular person depending on their crime and have a link to authorities where it can transmit if they go near those zones. By doing this it should stop a crime before it is committed. Authorities will also be able to link up with the chip remotely to see where someone is at any given time.

Of course it won't work for everyone but may prevent some crimes from being performed.

The police would have an alert system, whether it was an app for a phone or a separate device that all police cars and police stations had in them.

### Ethical ramifications

There would be some ethical issues with this idea. It is a breach of privacy. The person with the chip couldn't be able to do anything without the authorities knowing. Is it ok to track someone's every move after they have served a jail sentence? and to what extent?

There are also psychological ramifications to being monitored day in and day out. The AIC stated that "*Fox (1987) reported ..... those who have experienced the regime of [electronically] monitored home detention indicate that it is psychologically wearing and more onerous in terms of self-discipline than the world of prison*". [4]

There would be less room for self-improvement as offenders would not have to show constraint and learn to behave themselves.

### Advantages

The advantages are that children would be safer, there would be a monitoring system not leaving the police to just guess where a person is at a particular time and less offences committed being that there will be a lack of opportunity.

### Tools and Technology

To be able to use a chip like this we would need to have it surgically implanted which would mean hospitals, doctors and surgeons would need to be involved. There would also need to be development of the initial chip and the device that it communicates to. Some of the software that is used now with electronic monitoring and GPS could be used but it would also need to be more developed to incorporate individuality.

### Skills required

There will need to be many skilled people involved in this project. Medical skills, hardware will need to be produced and software development. Many of these skills are already available throughout the world and locally, the issues will be getting them all together to work on this one project.

### Outcome

If this project is successful the problem of sex offenders will not be solved but the re-occurrence will be diminished and our children will be a lot safer.

If this project is successful there is no reason it could not be used for other offenders to diminish crimes re-occurring.

[1]K. Richards, "Misperceptions about child sex offenders", *Australian Institute of Criminology*, 2011. [Online]. Available: <https://aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi429>. [Accessed: 11- Sep- 2019].

[2]"Living next door to evil: How Australia is awash with 17,000 convicted paedophiles - and police can't keep track of them all", *Msn.com*, 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/living-next-door-to-evil-how-australia-is-awash-with-17000-convicted-paedophiles-and-police-cant-keep-track-of-them-all/ar-BBVrFS1>. [Accessed: 11- Sep- 2019].

[3]M. Dillon, "SA's worst child sex offenders busted breaching their GPS tracking orders", *ABC News*, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-20/sa-sex-offenders-caught-breaching-electronic-monitoring-orders/10629770>. [Accessed: 11- Sep- 2019].

[4]M. Black and R. Smith, "Electronic monitoring in the criminal justice system", *Australian Institute of Criminology*, 2003. [Online]. Available: <https://aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi254>. [Accessed: 11- Sep- 2019].

[5]*Sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au*, 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication-documents/Recidivism%20of%20Sex%20Offenders%20Research%20Paper.pdf>. [Accessed: 11- Sep- 2019].