Today’s technology provides the federal government with the capability to potentially violate American citizen’s privacy and freedom. The framers of the Constitution added the Bill of Rights in order to ensure that the government would not violate the privacy and freedom of the people. In cases including the use of drone technology and GPS location, it can be argued that it is pushing the boundaries of the fourth amendment. The fourth amendment provides protection for the citizens of America by ensuring the privacy of their personal belongings. It also gives a reasonable expectation of privacy.

In the case of a phone’s GPS and location data, no one, including the federal government, is at liberty to go through or use that data without a warrant because it is private. Using GPS location systems on an owner’s cellphone is in violation of the fourth amendment because the owner has a reasonable expectation of privacy. The expectation of privacy is in relation to information that one intends to be private, and cellphones fall into that category. While the service provider continuously collects location data, it is not an act by the owner to make that information public. In fact, in many cases, this is done without their knowledge. By collecting data that was never intended to be public and without a warrant, it is in violation of the fourth amendment.

As for the use of drone technology for recording and surveillance, the question becomes more complex. Drones provide the ability to observe everyday lives without violating the fourth amendment. This observation becomes a violation when the government records a person’s actions without a warrant. Again, the fourth amendment protects against unreasonable searches, and recording an individual’s actions with a drone hoping to catch them in a crime is a clear abuse of that aspect. If there is knowledge of a crime, a warrant can easily be obtained within the limits of the fourth amendment. Otherwise, the rights of the people to be secure in their persons and houses should be upheld.

Liberty and privacy are far more valuable than the safety and security that would be gained from the use of GPS location and drones in abuse of the fourth amendment. The fourth amendment was added to the Bill of Rights for the sole purpose of protecting the citizens’ liberty and privacy. As Justice Brandeis said, “The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding.” Although the safety of American citizens is of utmost importance, protecting the rights established when this great nation was founded takes priority.