



North Carolina CJIN: Electronic Monitoring Program

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
on Justice and Public Safety
September 15, 2022

Dr. LaVonda Fowler, Ed.D., Executive Director, CJIN

Steve Lingerfelt, Chairman, CJIN

Hon. G. Galen Braddy, Chief District Court Judge

CJIN – Who We Are:

- ▶ The NCGA established the Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Governing Board during the 1996 Second Extra Session.
- ▶ NC is recognized nationally as a role model for criminal justice coordination and collaboration.



CJIN – Who We Are:

The CJIN Board is comprised of a knowledgeable cross-section of 21 criminal justice professionals and are appointed by the following Authorities:

- Speaker of the NC House,
- President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate,
- NC Governor,
- NC Attorney General,
- Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court,
- State of NC Chief Information Officer, and
- President of N.C. Chapter of the Association of Public Communications Officials International



Previous CJIN Projects

- ▶ Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER)
- ▶ Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS)
- ▶ CJIN-Mobile Data Network (CJIN-MDN)
 - End-User Technology
 - CJIN Network Security
 - CJIN Data Sharing Standards
- ▶ North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN)
- ▶ Statewide Magistrate System
- ▶ Ecitation®
- ▶ Naval Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS) Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX)



CJIN – Electronic Monitoring Program

Pursuant to S.L. 2021-180, Section 19A.7B.(a): “the General Assembly finds that the criminal justice system faces many challenges, including high recidivism rates, increases in domestic violence, escalated alcohol and drug offenses, overcrowding in prisons, backlogs of court cases, and overall reduced public safety.... **It is the intent of the General Assembly that in order to combat these unprecedented challenges, the North Carolina judicial system must have access to new innovative technology, such as global positioning system (GPS) electronic monitoring.**”

In 2018, according to the N.C. Division of Public Health, roughly 40% of the women who were killed in the State died at the hands of a partner. Therefore, in domestic violence cases, Courts are expected to closely monitor due to the high rates of recidivism and the substantial risks to the victim.



CJIN – Electronic Monitoring Program

In accordance with State Law, the (GPS) electronic monitoring program shall provide judges in participating judicial districts the option to use global positioning system (GPS) electronic monitoring devices as a condition of pretrial release for defendants of crimes related to:

- ▶ Stalking,
- ▶ Sexual Assault,
- ▶ Domestic Violence,
- ▶ Violation of Domestic Violence Protective Order, and
- ▶ Specialty Court Participants



CJIN – Electronic Monitoring Program

Initially, the program was launched as a pilot (via Caitlyn's Courage). After incredible game changing results, the program was delegated and has since expanded under the auspices of the Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) as the governing entity of the permanent program. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a newscast illuminating the program.





GPS MONITORING BRACELETS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUSPECTS myFOX8.com 10:06 57°

DIRECTOR, GUILFORD COUNTY



Participating Judicial Districts

SMALL JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

- ▶ **Judicial District 1** (Camden, Chowan, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans)
- ▶ **Judicial District 2** (Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington)
- ▶ **Judicial District 6** (Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton)
- ▶ **Judicial District 17-B** (Stokes, Surry)
- ▶ **Judicial District 24** (Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey)

MEDIUM JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

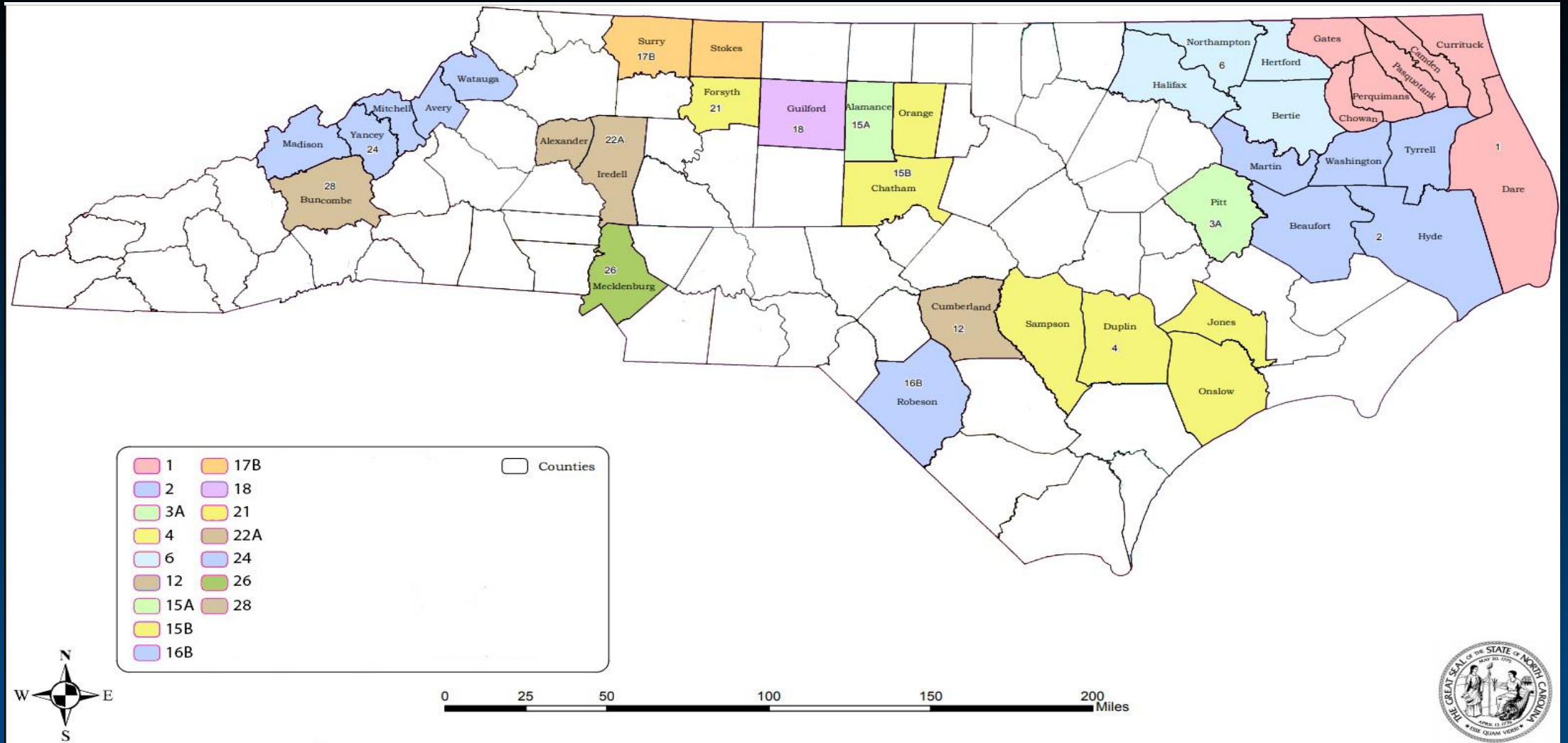
- ▶ **Judicial District 3-A** (Pitt)
- ▶ **Judicial District 15-A** (Alamance)
- ▶ **Judicial District 15-B** (Chatham, Orange)
- ▶ **Judicial District 16-B** (Robeson)
- ▶ **Judicial District 24** (Alexander, Iredell)

LARGE JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

- ▶ **Judicial District 4** (Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson)
- ▶ **Judicial District 12** (Cumberland)
- ▶ **Judicial District 18** (Guilford)
- ▶ **Judicial District 21** (Forsyth)
- ▶ **Judicial District 26** (Mecklenburg)
- ▶ **Judicial District 28** (Buncombe)



Participating Judicial Districts (Map)



Unique Features of the Program

Courts imposing the use of GPS monitoring sends the message to defendants, victims, and the community that the Court takes these matters seriously and will not tolerate domestic violence. A few unique highlights of the program are:

- ▶ Alerts both parties (victim and defendant) when they are in close proximity, either by mistake or intention.
- ▶ Active “real-time” monitoring, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- ▶ Multiple notification alerts via SMS text messaging are sent to victim if defendant is in close proximity.
- ▶ Victim receives a call from a live call center if defendant is within three hundred feet.
- ▶ If defendant violates a “fixed” zone, law enforcement are dispatched. NOTE: examples of “fixed” zones are: victim’s residence, work, school, parent's residence, etc.



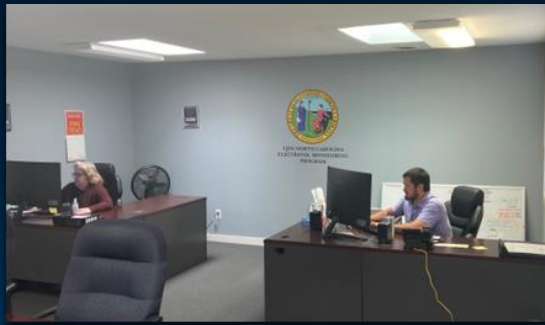
Unique Features of the Program

- ▶ **16** participating judicial districts / **39** counties and expanding.
- ▶ Historically, roughly 66% of protective orders in domestic violence cases are violated, and so far, **only 12%** of the defendants participating have violated.
- ▶ Judges have the discretion regarding use of the program.
- ▶ Along with high conflict domestic violence cases, the program is available for Specialty Courts.
- ▶ Fully funded, completely paid for program, no expense to the victim and/or defendant.
- ▶ The program is an alternative to pre-trial detention – while also increasing protections for victims. In North Carolina, pre-trial detainees accounted for 82% of the total jail population, and approximately 75% are determined to be indigent.



24/7 Call Center

To keep victims safe, monitoring needs to be active / “real-time,” thus 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with staff available to respond to alerts and assist victims, as opposed to responding the next day.



Duties

- Monitor & report violations.
- Assist victims, defendants, providers, etc.
- Work in conjunction with Law Enforcement as needed to promote victim safety.



Location

- The call center is situated in Wilmington, NC.



Call Center Staff

- 24/7 support for victims and enrollees.
- Since March 1st, responded to 17,822 phone calls
- Averaging 200 calls per day

Electronic Monitoring Technology (Defendant)

The device used for defendants is Securus Technologies BLUtag one-piece GPS ankle bracelet. The device includes the following features:

- ▶ The ankle bracelet is tamper-resistant, waterproof, and made of rubber with fiber optic sensors running through it.
- ▶ Every second it pulses with a light to ensure there is no delay in recording.
- ▶ Simultaneous dual cellular carrier option. Thus, providing the capability to switch cellular networks. Moreover, the device contains two cellular network sim cards and will automatically and seamlessly switch between carriers.
- ▶ The unit has a lithium-ion battery, which will maintain a minimum charge for 50+ hours in between charges. This is one of the longest battery-lives for a GPS monitoring device receiving one GPS location point per minute.



Victims Notification Unit

The security of a victim is at the mercy of technology. Accordingly, when lives are at stake, the technology and infrastructure must be foolproof. For victims, the device is Securus Technologies "Stalker Alert". The device includes the following features:

- ▶ Mobile exclusion zone that always surrounds the victim.
- ▶ Discreet portable unit that can fit in a bag and/or clothing pocket.
- ▶ Paired with Defendant ankle monitor.
- ▶ Sends text message to victims' phone when violation occurs.



Program Overview from March 1 – September 1

(March 1, 2022 – September 1, 2022)

Total Participants since Program Inception	
Blue Tag (Defendants)	793
Stalker Alerts (Victims)	420
Total	1213

Total Violations for Counties with Highest Volume

County	June Violations	YTD	Enrollees End of Month	July Violations	YTD	Enrollees End of Month	August Violations	YTD	Enrollees End of Month
Cumberland	20	29	100	25	51	148	20	71	153
Iredell	11	25	54	13	43	64	12	55	66
Pitt	8	25	77	16	45	82	7	52	79



Testimonials

▶ ***Victim:***

- “Good afternoon. I was recently a part of your program and wanted to say THANK YOU!! I was a victim of an assault at the hands of my husband and thanks to your program I felt safe and protected and most importantly that you all cared and wanted to keep me safe when I felt I had no one! I also strongly feel because of this program it let him know I was not alone, I had people that had my back and cared, and he was not allowed to take his anger out on me anymore! I cannot express to you in words the importance of this program other than to say it truly is a blessing and you all are guardian angels!! I am forever grateful to you and your staff thank you so much for this very important service you provide!”



Testimonials

- ▶ “I was just really happy about this program. So, thank you for everything you’ve done.”
▶ *Iredell County*
- ▶ “This is such a beautiful device. This is an amazing thing; it makes me feel so safe.”
▶ *Iredell County*
- ▶ Defendant:



More than happy to answer any questions.

Contact Information:

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