


U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

MEMORANDUM FOR: Field Office Directors SEP 14 2009
Deputy Field Office Directors

FROM: David J. Venturella
Acting Director 

SUBJECT: Use of GPS Monitoring Devices on Persons who are Pregnant or
Diagnosed with a Severe Medical Condition

Effective immediately, the Office of Detention and Removal Operations" (DRO) Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program is discontinuing the use of Radio Frequency (RF) and Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) ankle bracelets on persons whose medical conditions render the use of these devices inappropriate. This includes, but is not limited to verifiably pregnant women.

ATD personnel should transfer anyone currently wearing ankle bracelets and who fall into this category to another form of monitoring. If ATD personnel have reason to believe that an exception to this rule is warranted in a particular case, they should contact the HQDRO-ATD Chief for authorization to apply an ankle bracelet.

This change in practice does not prevent affected persons from remaining in the ATD program, provided they accept the changed terms of participation, nor does it indicate that electronic monitoring devices are or have been demonstrated to be harmful.

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