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14 years in the Industry

Distinguished Senators and Representatives and members of the committee,

My name is Andrew Bloom and I have been a bondsman and bail enforcement agent for 14 years.

I am here to testify against **SB475**.

Electronic monitoring has proven to be a dangerous tool in the monitoring of defendants all over the country. States and localities are using the GPS ankle bracelet in place of bail bonds.

Electronic monitoring instead of bail is a mistake.

If the defendant violates and cuts off the bracelet, he is gone.

Public safety is not served, but is made a mockery.

It is great to know where the defendant is when he is complying, but isn't it when he is not complying that is the concern?

Defendants commit crimes while wearing the bracelets.

Does it stop them? Please see the attached article from Boston Fox News.

And who will look for the defendant when he cuts off the bracelet and runs?

The state has time and time again proven that it has no vested interest in finding defendants who skip their court dates.

Defendants who fail to appear routinely go free when they are detained in other states and Connecticut decides that if the problem is no longer in this state, then who cares, there is no need to extradite.

The way it reads **SB475** could lead to removing the commercial bail industry all together.

Without bail who goes after defendants who fail to appear? Our company over the last 4 years closed over \$20 Million in forfeitures. Over 1500 defendants in the last 4 years and over 5000 defendants in the company's history. We have spoken to and got defendants back from everywhere. Mexico, Dominican Republic, England, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, and all over The United States are some examples.

As I have testified in the past, there are over 300 Bail Enforcement Agents in The State of CT who at no cost to tax payers handle the case load of people who fail to appear on bonds. The police departments are already busy enough and can't handle this extra burden. We can not replace 300 Bail Enforcement Agents with 300 new police officers. A new police officer will cost in excess of \$100,000 a year between benefits, overtime, and pensions.

So do the math. $300 \times 100,000 = 30,000,000$ **\$30,000,000 a year**. Is this a good idea?

Seriously??

Andrew J. Bloom

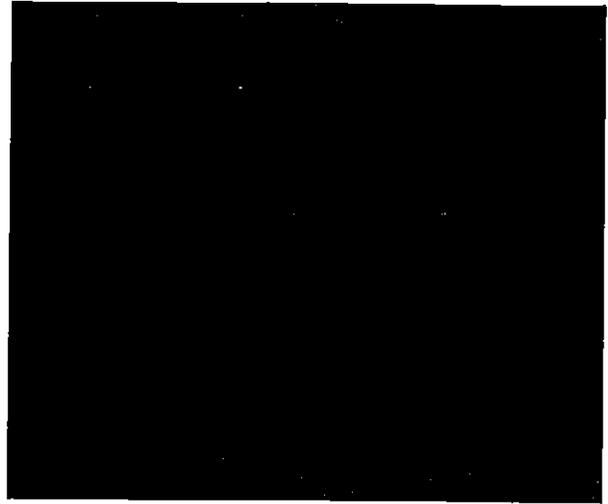
Police: Rapist cut GPS bracelet, raped another woman

Updated: Tuesday, 23 Feb 2010, 2:45 PM EST
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Bob
Ward

Advertisement



FRAMINGHAM (FOX25, myfoxboston) - A convicted rapist has been arrested again after he cut off his GPS monitoring bracelet and raped another woman, police said Thursday.

Police arrested **William French**, 29, of Framingham, shortly before 3:00 a.m. on Friday. He now faces rape charges.

RECENT COURT DOCUMENTS REVEAL:

- French forced his way into the victim's home and raped her while still wearing his GPS bracelet.
- After raping the woman, he forced her around her own house and ordered her to get him a beer.
- French made the victim drive him to an ATM, cutting off the GPS bracelet along the way and throwing it out the window. He forced her to take out \$60.
- When they got back to the home, he raped the woman again. He fell asleep with his arm around her so she could not get away.
- When French went to the bathroom, the victim screamed until a neighbor heard her and called 911.

French was recently released from prison after serving eight years for aggravated rape. He was required to wear a GPS ankle bracelet after he allegedly violated his probation.

Police said French cut off his GPS bracelet at approximately 11:25pm, alerting probation officials that it had been removed.

His victim was taken to the hospital and released.

"This is a terribly disturbing case," District Attorney Gerry Leone said in a press release. "We allege that the defendant's chilling actions occurred only weeks after he was released from prison for a 2001 rape conviction and just days after he was placed on GPS monitoring by the Probation Department for a probation violation."

He was arraigned on charges of aggravated rape kidnapping, assault and battery, unarmed robbery, threats to

commit a crime, kidnapping and for removing the GPS monitoring unit.

He is due at a probation hearing on Tuesday.

French is also due back in court on Thursday for a dangerousness hearing.