



SecureAlert™ is proud to sponsor the Surviving Parents Coalition's (SPC) *Ride for Their Lives Campaign!* Although normally worn by offenders, riders will use the SecureAlert™ TrackerPAL II (e) device to demonstrate how real-time monitoring and tracking of offenders can be a critical tool in enforcing current and pending legislation.

Legislation

In addition to the SPC advocating for legislation that will aid in the prevention of crimes against children and young adults, it also promotes law enforcement best-practices related to responding to predatory crimes. Real-time GPS Offender Tracking, such as that provided by SecureAlert, is one such practice driven by legislation.

In February 2005, nine year old Florida resident, Jessica Lunsford, was raped and murdered. The accused offender lived across the street from Jessica and had a history of crimes against children. He was required to register as a sex offender under Florida law but failed to keep his registration information current. This case prompted Florida House Bill 1877 later that year. Jessica's Law increased punishment and monitoring of child sex offenders. Two major components of the law include a mandatory 25 years to life prison sentence for first time offenders convicted of sex crimes against children, and the use of global positioning systems (GPS) or electronic devices to track the location of sex offenders after they are released. Several states have since passed similar versions of the legislation, although the title of acts may vary by state.

Taking Action at the State Level

At least 25 states have enacted mandatory 25 year minimum sentences for first- time child sex crime offenders; at least 39 states have enacted GPS or electronic monitoring provisions specific to sex offenders; and at least 23 states have enacted *both* GPS or electronic monitoring and 25 year minimums. Some states have not yet enacted this legislation, but similar or related provisions.

Missed Opportunities

However, even in states where legislation exists, oftentimes, the GPS monitoring implementation is not the appropriate type, or the agencies involved do not have sufficient resources to properly monitor all offenders. In some cases, sexual offenders are placed on "passive" monitoring, whereby infractions such as entering prohibited areas including parks or school grounds, are not reported until long after they've happened, and potentially another crime has been committed. In other cases, the infraction information gets to officers in a timelier manner, but due to budget cuts and other constraints, the assigned officers are backlogged to respond efficiently.

Intervention Monitoring

SecureAlert's TrackerPAL II (e) device, which includes the ability to have cellular voice communications with offenders through the device, and unique Intervention Monitoring service, whereby SecureAlert Monitoring Operators, in cooperation with law enforcement, act as the first line of response when a monitoring violation alarm comes through on a real-time basis, increase the chances of stopping offenders as they are in the act of violating, versus merely finding out about the violations after the fact.

A TrackerPAL II (e) Offender Tracking Device (OTD) will be used to track Ed Smart and other riders throughout the Ride so that supporters may view how GPS Offender Tracking can track the 24/7 whereabouts of offenders. Riders' progress may be found at the following Facebook link: <http://apps.facebook.com/securealert/>.

For more information regarding SecureAlert, please visit www.securealert.com.

Good luck to all of the riders and members of the Surviving Parents Coalition!