

Electronic Monitoring

Criminal Justice

Tagging as a substitute for custody, and tagging as an extra condition.

As an alternative

- Curfew enforced by tag and monitoring
- Keeps housing and employment intact
- Cheaper per day than a prison place
- Evidence on reoffending is limited
- Depends on having a stable address

As an addition

- Extra conditions on a community sentence
- Can widen the net over lower-risk people
- Technical breaches generate recalls
- Location data raises privacy questions
- Household members share the burden

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The effect depends entirely on what monitoring replaces; used as an add-on it extends the reach of the system.

Educational reference. Evaluations are mostly non-experimental and scheme-specific; results do not transfer between designs.