

INTENSIVE SUPERVISED RELEASE

Introduction

Minnesota's Intensive Supervision Program was established by the legislature in 1990 (M.S. §244.12-.15). The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) Intensive Supervision Policy governs program administration statewide.

The Intensive Supervision Program requires that certain high-risk offenders be identified while in prison, and that those offenders be placed on Intensive Supervised Release (ISR) upon release from prison. Offenders

remain on ISR until they successfully complete the program or until they reach expiration of their sentence.

ISR elements include house arrest, electronic monitoring (which may include GPS), random drug/alcohol testing, unannounced residential and work visits by the supervising agent, mandatory 40 hours per week of work/education, payment of supervision fees, and restitution to victims. Offenders are also required to comply with any special conditions of their release, which may include sex offender treatment, Alcoholics Anonymous, and/or anger management classes.

ISR caseloads do not exceed 30 offenders per two agents, according to law. Since ISR is continuous – 24 hours per day, 365 days a year – most offenders are supervised by a team of three to five agents in order to provide seamless delivery of offender supervision.

ISR consists of four phases. Offenders must successfully complete each phase.

Phase I is very restrictive and includes a minimum of four face-to-face contacts weekly. Phase I also includes house arrest and electronic monitoring, in addition to all other requirements. All level 3 sex offenders are placed on GPS monitoring for a minimum of 60 days during phase 1.

As offenders move through *phases II and III*, house arrest and face-to-face contact requirements are modified as permitted by law to reflect offender progress. Phase II requires a minimum of two face-to-face contacts per week, followed by one weekly contact for phase III.

Phase IV, the final ISR phase, has less agent contact and a curfew. Two face-to-face contacts are required monthly.

All phases maintain the random and unannounced nature of agent contacts as well as drug/alcohol testing. During all phases, offenders must continue to be involved in constructive work/education for a minimum of 40 hours per week.

Intensive Supervised Release Program Facts

- ▶ About 1,200 offenders are served quarterly on ISR across Minnesota.
- ▶ ISR costs about \$20 per day, per offender.
- ▶ GPS monitoring costs an additional \$13-\$19 per day, per offender.
- ▶ Traditional probation and supervised release costs about \$4 per day, per offender.
- ▶ The DOC FY11 ISR budget is \$2.837 million.
- ▶ \$3.2 million is allocated in FY11 for grants to local entities to provide ISR.

Purpose

The overall purpose of ISR is to protect the public by managing and intensely supervising the offender in the community. Programming is provided with the goals of positively changing the offender's behavior, facilitating employment of the offender, and requiring payment of restitution to victims of the offender's crime.

Program Components

Limited caseload size is key to ISR. This allows agent flexibility to provide close supervision and surveillance as well as the opportunity to make random residential contacts during nontraditional work hours, evenings, and weekends.

Operation

Currently, ISR is provided in every county in the State of Minnesota. The DOC administers grant funds to the Community Corrections Act jurisdictions of Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted (DFO); Hennepin; Ramsey; St. Louis, Carlton, Cook, Lake, and Koochiching (ARC); Anoka; and Dakota Counties to operate local ISR programs under state guidelines. These jurisdictions have about 45 ISR agents providing services.

About 42 DOC agents are responsible for ISR in the remaining counties of the state.

Evaluation

In accordance with law, an evaluation component has been developed to gather and analyze information concerning the ISR program. That evaluation is ongoing and revised quarterly. Historically, the percentage of offenders who fail ISR by committing a new felony has consistently remained below one percent.

Rule Violations

ISR has strict rules, unannounced agent visits, a zero tolerance for drug/alcohol use, and intense surveillance. Offenders face return to prison for violation of ISR program rules.

ISR revocations are in accordance with DOC *Guidelines for Revocation of Parole/Supervised Release* and *Promulgated Rules*, administered by the DOC Hearings & Release Unit.



GPS monitoring is one tool used to assist with supervision of some ISR offenders. Pictured, from left to right, are the tracking unit worn by the offender, the transmitter carried by the offender, and the charging stand that downloads and transmits data.

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Minnesota Department of Corrections
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-5219
651/361-7200
TTY 651/627-3529
www.doc.state.mn.us

