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**August 6, 2008**

### **IL Governor Signs Law to Track Domestic Batterers Using GPS Technology**

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich (D) signed a measure into law that allows authorities to track convicted domestic violence offenders via satellite using GPS technology. The new [law](#) allows judges to order that offenders wear a GPS device or be subject to GPS monitoring. Authorities will be alerted when abusers enter survivor-designated safe zones, typically areas surrounding their home or workplace.

The family of [Cindy Bischof](#) fought for a law in her name that would allow authorities to track offenders who have previously violated orders of protection. Bischof, 43, was [killed](#) outside her office in March by her ex-boyfriend, Michael L. Giroux. He had been arrested and prosecuted for violating a restraining order twice before the fatal shooting. Bischof had requested that Giroux be monitored using GPS after his release from prison, but this type of surveillance was not a legal possibility at the time.

Diane Rosenfeld, a lawyer who worked to add GPS monitoring to Massachusetts state law, told [Ms. Magazine](#) that a key aspect of GPS legislation is that it places responsibility for following orders of protection on the offender rather than the victim. Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich [stated](#) that "with this legislation, we will further help victims of domestic violence by monitoring their abusers whereabouts and aiding law enforcement in tracking violations of a restraining order."

Media Resources: Ms. Magazine, Summer 2008; The Chicago Tribune, 8/4/08; Daily Herald, 3/9/08; Governor Rod Blagojevich Press Release, 8/4/08

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