

[Back to regular view](#) • [Print this page](#)

New law allows tracking of abusers

(<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1090948,080508dvgps.article>)

August 5, 2008

By **DEANNA BELLANDI**, the associated press

A new law named for a suburban woman gunned down by an ex-boyfriend will allow Illinois judges to order domestic violence offenders to wear tracking devices.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed the legislation Monday that lets judges order abusers to wear global positioning devices to track their movements so victims can know if they get too close.

The law is named for Cindy Bischof, an Arlington Heights woman who was slain in March in an Elmhurst parking lot by a former boyfriend who then killed himself. Bischof's family said she had inquired about using GPS technology, after taking numerous steps to try to protect herself.

"My sister Cindy's death shall not be in vain, and her legacy will live on forever to help others," Michael Bischof said at the bill-signing ceremony.

Under the law, which takes effect Jan. 1, an abuser can be ordered to wear a tracking device if they've violated a restraining order. Illinois is the 11th state to pass such a law.

Illinois' corrections and juvenile justice departments previously have used GPS to track sex offenders, according to the governor's office.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Ketki Steffen, the attorney in Cindy Bischof's case, said tracking devices would increase protections for domestic violence victims and "give them peace of mind."

The law also calls for an additional fine of at least \$200 for every penalty when there's a conviction for violating a restraining order. The money would go to the newly established Domestic Violence Surveillance Fund.

Local domestic abuse experts applauded the new law but had questions about state funding for it when domestic violence and other social programs face major budget cuts.

"In order to effectively run this system, we should have the money to pay for it," said Dawn Dalton, executive director of Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network. "Making sure the dollars are allotted appropriately is in everyone's best interest."

Diane Bedrosian, executive director of South Suburban Family Shelter, also has funding doubts but said there is a strong need for the legislation. Bedrosian estimated that orders of protection are violated in 70 percent of the cases she sees at her Homewood shelter.

"It's like a game. (Abusers) come and pound on the door and wait for the cops, and when the cops arrive they duck around the corner and the cops can't find them," Bedrosian said. "The cops aren't going to keep playing that game. They won't keep coming around."

Blagojevich said he wants to talk to Michael Bischof about strengthening other laws to help domestic violence victims, which could be done as part of a "Rewrite to Do Right" campaign the governor plans to launch this week.

Contributing: William Lee

Affiliates: [YourSeason.com](#) | [RogerEbert.com](#) | [SearchChicago - Autos](#) | [SearchChicago - Homes](#) |
[SearchChicago - Jobs](#) | [NeighborhoodCircle.com](#) | [Centerstage](#)

Express Links: [TV Listings](#) | [Video](#) | [Yellow Pages](#) | [Submissions](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Eating In](#) | [Restaurant Reviews](#) |
[Advertising](#) | [Media Kit](#)

© Copyright 2008 Digital Chicago, Inc. | [Terms of Use](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Submission Guidelines](#)