



David A. Clarke Jr.  
Sheriff

# Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

Fran McLaughlin  
Public Information Officer  
Cell: 414-254-9488  
Phone: 414-278-5226  
fran.mclaughlin@milwcnty.com

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Wisconsin Department of Corrections Electronic Monitoring Snafu Draws Response From Sheriff**

Milwaukee, WI – A Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story by reporter Gitte Laasby, about a teenager who murdered a pregnant, 34-year-old Milwaukee mother in front of her 13-year-old son, indicated that the teen was supposed to be under state Department of Corrections electronic monitoring. Instead of taking him into custody when the equipment malfunctioned, the DOC allowed him to go unsupervised.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/crime/young-killer-was-supposed-to-be-monitored-records-show-vb5p5q1-160768275.html>).

In January 2012, Clarke implemented a policy change after conducting an analysis of the Electronic Monitoring program used by the Sheriff's Office. The program used by MCSO is not the same as the one used by the state that was referred to in the news article.

After a thorough review of convicted criminals who had been placed on electronic monitoring, some by order of the court, Clarke made the determination that there were too many people on electronic monitoring. Many had been convicted of dangerous offenses, including burglary, repeat drunk drivers, felons in possession of firearm, drug dealing, and others who posed a serious risk to law-abiding citizens, and most had extensive criminal histories.

Electronic monitoring was originally designed as a jail population control tool to put low-level and non-repeat offenders out into the community to serve part of their sentence. The program had been extended to people it was not designed to be used for, and allowed criminals to escape punishment and put the public at risk. The Milwaukee County Jail is nowhere near full capacity and has plenty of room to accommodate having inmates serve out their sentence in confinement.

Clarke's analysis led him to conclude that this is an untrustworthy population, and neighborhoods would be less at risk having these people off the street. It has been erroneously reported that the MCSO electronic monitoring program has been eliminated. In fact, the program continues, but we have become more selective about who is allowed to serve their sentence outside the jail setting.

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**“Electronic monitoring is not fool proof,” Clarke said. “It may tell you where a person is, but it can’t tell you what they’re doing and what they’re up to. Let this case be a lesson to people like Judge Jeff Kremers, who opposes my more restrictive electronic monitoring policy. He believes in a soft-on-crime philosophy of the least restrictive means for repeat offenders, and other unproven, socially engineered methods to deal with crime and violence.”**

**Under Clarke’s stricter electronic monitoring policy, Mical D. Thomas would not have been out on the street, whether the equipment was working or not.**

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