

It's a crime to track someone without their consent.

Effective March 20, 2025, Ohio law makes it illegal to use a tracking device or app to monitor someone's location without their knowledge or permission.

ORC 2903.216 | Illegal Use of a Tracking Device or Application

What does the law cover?

- Installing a GPS tracker, AirTag, or other electronic device on someone's property **without consent**
- Installing tracking software or apps on someone's phone or device **without consent**
- Failing to remove a tracker or app after the person **revokes consent**

What counts as a tracking device or app?

- Physical devices: GPS trackers, Bluetooth tags, hardwired vehicle trackers
- Software apps: Location-tracking apps on phones, tablets, or computers
- Any tool that remotely determines or tracks the position or movement of a person or their property

Consent automatically revoked when:

- A divorce complaint or dissolution petition is filed
- A protection order is filed or issued against the person doing the tracking
- **The person tracking has 72 hours after being served to remove the device or app.**

Penalties:

- **Misdemeanor of the 1st degree:** first time offense, up to 180 days in jail, up to \$1,000 fine
- **Felony of the 4th degree:** prior convictions for this offense or for menacing by stalking (ORC 2903.211), an active protection order at the time of the offense, history of violence towards the victim or the offender was previously determined to pose substantial risk of harm



Signs You May Be Tracked

- The person knows where you are without being told
- Unfamiliar devices found on, under, or inside your vehicle or belongings
- Apps on your phone or your children's phones that you didn't download
- Suspicious notifications on your smart devices

Safety Planning Tips

- Trust your instincts. If something feels off, it may be.
- Talk with an advocate about your concerns and create a safety plan.
- Learn what common tracking devices look like.
- Check your vehicle in easy-to-overlook places: under the hood and bumper, around tires, power outlets, under seats.
- Turn off location sharing on your phone, GPS, and social media.
- Change passwords on home security apps.
- Change routes and routines to and from frequent locations.
- Make a plan before removing any device or app. Removal can alert the person tracking you.

Stalking Prevention, Awareness & Resource Center

stalkingawareness.org



Safety Net Project, NNEDV

techsafety.org



For Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, and Courts: Charges may be filed under ORC 2903.216. The offense does not require a pattern of conduct. **A single act of installing or failing to remove a tracking device or app without consent is chargeable.** Penalty enhancements apply under division (F)(2) of the statute.



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