

WHAT HAVE WE FOUND OUT *about the* PRE-TRIAL ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM) OF CHILDREN

in Hungary?

Best interests assessment

EM may be imposed to assist law enforcement supervision and restraining orders. It is rarely considered in children's cases due to the restrictive statutory framework. Children's EM-specific needs and interests are not required to be considered in the process. Police assessment is limited to the feasibility of EM.



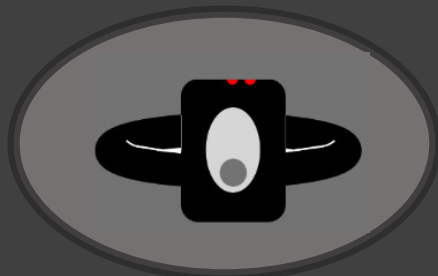
Target group

The policy does not require courts to target any specific offender groups with EM. While data are not collected about children on EM, some evidence suggests that children on EM are serious or repeat offenders.



Conditions

EM assists the monitoring of location restrictions, including inclusion and exclusion zones. The typical condition is house arrest, which means that children are not allowed to leave their homes without the Court's permission.



Specialized support

Children on pre-trial EM do not receive dedicated support from specialized services.



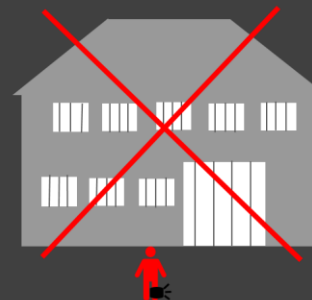
Monitoring protocols

The monitoring protocol does not distinguish children as a target group with special needs. Following the adult protocol, the uniformed staff makes phone calls and visits people's homes when needed. Negative effects of the monitoring are not considered as community safety is prioritised.



Alternative to deprivation of liberty

EM is widely regarded as a tool for providing an alternative to deprivation of liberty and for preventing imprisonment. However, house arrest often provides restrictions on children's liberty similar to custody.



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