

# GPS TRACKING

Southwest Key's *GPS Tracking program* is an alternative to detention for pre-adjudicated youth utilizing daily face-to-face and telephone contacts and 24-hour electronic monitoring/Global Positioning Unit (GPS). The goal is to ensure that youth appear at their scheduled court hearings while preventing acts of delinquency and to help them complete probation within their communities. According to the Georgia Statewide Outcome Data for 2014, 99% of the youth returned to court as required.

## Program Overview

OAs part of Southwest Key's juvenile justice work, Southwest Key has partnered with Satellite Tracking of People (STOP) to provide a new, innovative GPS tracking program. The GPS Tracking Program is designed to prevent acts of delinquency and self-destructive behavior from youth waiting to go to court. Helping them integrate back into society, while allowing them to continue living at home. The primary goals of this program are to ensure that youth appear at their scheduled court dates and they do not offend while waiting to go to court.

Youth are generally referred to the Southwest Key GPS Tracking Program as a result of charge(s) being filed against the youth. Youth can be referred either a) at intake as an alternative to detention or b) after being released from detention or incarceration. Because the Southwest Key GPS Tracking Program operates 24 hours a day, youth can receive services at all times. Southwest Key partners with STOP, who provide all of the monitoring equipment and notification of the youth's whereabouts 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. While Southwest Key staff connect and disconnect GPS units, STOP provides Southwest Key staff with daily reports of youth's whereabouts and immediate alerts of the youth who are not within their zoned areas. STOP has the capacity to produce detailed reports that may be necessary for court records.

## Program Design

The Southwest Key GPS Tracking Program has three critical program components: 1) Supervision & Tracking Services; 2) Supplemental Program Services; and 3) Crisis Intervention Services.

## Supervision and Tracking Services

The Southwest Key GPS Tracking Program features a combination of face-to-face and telephone contacts as well as electronic monitoring of each youth through an active Global

Positioning Unit (GPS). Every participant in the program receives one face-to-face visit per day and one telephone contact from program staff, as well as constant monitoring through a GPS unit. The unit is an ankle-worn device that is easy to conceal under a sock or pant leg, is waterproof, and provides a GPS location every minute of the day. The GPS unit also carries all the youth's allowed zones and required schedule in the device, which allows for instant analysis of adherence to curfews, school attendance, and other requirements for immediate reporting. Therefore, Southwest Key has the ability to monitor program youth 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In addition to monitoring, staff ensure that youth: attend classes through contact with the school to check on attendance, behavior and academic performance; maintain and/or seek employment, when appropriate; obey curfews; and fulfill community service hours. Youth clients must report their whereabouts at all times to parents or guardians and to staff, and it is the responsibility of the youth to be in a location which he/she can be found by the staff on duty. As a result of this intense and highly structured program design, staff can more easily forecast and identify emerging problems and provide preventive, rather than reactive interventions.

# SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM SERVICES

Southwest Key believes that all youth have the ability to be successful and will work in direct partnership with the youth to help them achieve identified goals. By coupling monitoring with a multitude of positive experiences, youth are better equipped to make healthier decisions in their lives, circumventing further involvement in the criminal justice system. As such, the Southwest Key GPS Tracking program incorporates an array of supplemental services to ensure that each participant receives an optimum level of individualized care.

## Youth Intake & Behavioral Agreement

During initial intake, staff meets with the youth and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) to connect and assign the GPS unit, and review together the Behavioral Agreement required of all participants. The Behavioral Agreement serves as a contract between the youth and Southwest Key, and thoroughly describes program expectations, requirements, youth and parent responsibilities.

## Educational Support

Each youth participates in a community-based program that addresses their educational and/or vocational needs. Southwest Key staff monitor the attendance of every participant on a regular basis and provide support for both clients and school personnel.

## Transportation

As needed, staff may be called upon to provide transportation for youth to court, school, work, appointments, or recreational events. Staff who transport youth adhere to strict vehicle policies and procedures to ensure the safety of participants.

## Family Work

Family involvement and support is essential for each participant's successful stabilization and ultimate success as a member of the community. Our goal is to assist parents in developing the skills needed to effectively guide, discipline, and nurture their children towards becoming responsible, law-abiding citizens.

## Crisis Intervention

Because we recognize that crises typically do not arise in families during the hours of 9am to 5pm, our program is designed to provide highly-intensive services during evenings and weekends to accommodate the schedules of families and the realities of their lives. By establishing familiarity with both youth and family, Southwest Key staff seeks to predict and prevent oncoming crises and address such situations with available resources. When crises do occur, Southwest Key provides crisis intervention seven (7) days per week, twenty-four (24) hours per day, and 365 days per year.

## Summary

The Southwest Key GPS Tracking Program is designed to operate as a community-based alternative to secure detention for youth awaiting a court action, eliminating the unnecessary detention of pre-adjudicated youth and saving taxpayers and local governments hundreds of thousands of dollars. The program is also designed to serve youth after release from detention or incarceration. Our structured programming and tracking services are designed to hold youth accountable for their behavior while, at the same time, ensuring community safety. Since October 1, 2009, Southwest Key Programs has partnered with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to provide the GPS Tracking Program service. During a six month evaluation period, 83% of the youth in the GPS Tracking Program completed the requirements set forth by the courts.



To learn more about GPS Tracking or any other Southwest Key program, please visit our website at

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