

Electronic Location Tracking Devices

19B Policy



CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Police Department



Policy Scope and Guardrails

Approval required under Administrative Code Chapter 19B

Policy governs:

- Authorized uses
- Prohibited and restricted uses
- Safeguards, data controls, and oversight

Applies to all electronic location tracking devices, including **StarChase** (a Prop. E pilot technology).

Technology Covered

Electronic Location Tracking Devices are devices that reveal location or movement by electronic signal.

Devices governed by this policy:

- GPS tracking devices
- RFID tracking devices
- RF Beacon tracking devices
- StarChase (vehicle-mounted GPS tagging system, pilot use)

All devices are subject to the same policy limits and safeguards.

Authorized Uses

Electronic location tracking devices may be used only for:

1. **Warrant or recognized warrant exception**
E.g., consent and exigent circumstances
2. **Vehicle pursuit mitigation**
Consistent with SFPD DGO 5.05 and Admin Code § 96I.2(d)
3. **Theft Abatement Operations**

Any use outside these categories is prohibited.

Prohibited and Restricted Uses

Devices shall not be used:

- To monitor, harass, intimidate, or discriminate based on protected characteristics
- To enforce prohibitions on gender-affirming care, reproductive care, or related travel
- Civil immigration enforcement purposes
- For non-law-enforcement purposes

StarChase-specific restriction:

- Tracking must cease and the device must be removed once the vehicle is apprehended

Data and Civil Liberties Safeguards

- Use limited to lawful purposes and defined scenarios
- Role-based access for authorized personnel only
- CJIS-compliant security, encryption, and audit logs
- SFPD remains sole custodian of collected data
- Data sharing limited to lawful criminal and administrative processes

Oversight and Accountability

- Chain-of-command supervision
- Required training on authorized and prohibited uses
- Misuse subject to Internal Affairs, DPA review, and Chapter 19B enforcement
- Corrective actions reported as required by law

Technology in Practice

When used within policy limits, StarChase:

- Provides an alternative to high-risk vehicle pursuits
- Allows officers to disengage while maintaining location awareness
- Supports safer apprehension and reduced risk to the public



Primary objective: public safety and risk reduction.

Thank you.

Any questions?