

BAIL WITH ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Electronic monitoring as a condition of bail (EM bail) is granted to suitable defendants who would otherwise be remanded in custody, in prison, while waiting for a court hearing.

A person on EM bail (a bailee) wears an electronically monitored tracker and lives at an address approved by the Court.

Department of Corrections (Corrections) and New Zealand Police (Police) manage EM bail.

How does EM bail work?

A person on EM bail wears an electronically monitored tracker 24 hours a day and lives at an agreed address at all times unless they have permission to leave for an approved purpose, such as work.

The tracker is monitored by a security company and lets them know the bailee is where they're supposed to be.

How does the application process work?

Any person remanded in custody by a Court under the Bail Act 2000 can apply for EM bail. An application for EM bail is usually made through a lawyer.

A probation officer from Corrections completes a Suitability Report for a Judge to consider when making a decision about an application for EM bail.

Police will also present their own view to either oppose or support EM bail to the Court.

What are the benefits of EM Bail?

- > Sometimes a bailee can continue working and contribute positively to their family.
- > Staying in a home environment means people on EM bail aren't negatively influenced by others remanded in custody

What about community safety?

For a Court to grant EM Bail, it must be happy that the public, witnesses, victims, associates and those who will share the house are safe from the defendant.

Police respond to alarms triggered by the tracker.

The tracker will trigger an alarm, if the bailee:

- > tries to take off the tracker
- > leaves the address without permission
- > is late back from a planned absence.

The bailee may be arrested and appear before the Court to decide whether their EM bail will continue.

How can I find out more about EM bail?

You can find more information about EM bail along with the Application for Bail with Electronic Monitoring from:

- > Corrections website www.corrections.govt.nz or Police website www.police.govt.nz
- > local Court house
- > Community Probation Service Centres or
- > prison remand units.