

Class Syllabus: Elements of a Successful Home Detention (RF) Program

Instructor: George B. Drake

Course Description

The use of electronic equipment to monitor offenders in home detention has become commonplace in most criminal justice agencies across the nation. Except for limited training offered by vendors, correctional and law enforcement employees often receive no expert training on how to operate a home detention (radio frequency) program. This course will help students obtain a basic understanding of the equipment, help them understand the alerts that a system should generate, develop appropriate response protocols and show the importance of evaluating the success of the program

Course Requirements

This class does not require previous class work. Students should be employed by a law enforcement or criminal justice agency. Some of the material discussed is not intended for the general public and should not be shared with offenders under electronic supervision.

Registration to the Electronic Monitoring Resource Center is recommended. Some of the assigned readings can be located in the website's knowledge base.

<https://emresourcecenter.nlectc.du.edu/>

Active participation in the class is required. Students will be expected to post comments on a discussion forum.

Course Goals

- The student will be able to name the pioneers of the home detention technology.
- The student will be able to identify the components of a home detention (RF) system and understand nomenclature used in the industry.
- The student will be able to list ten alerts that are typically generated by a home detention system.
- The student will be able to draft an appropriate response protocol and understand the costs associated with an around-the-clock response commitment.
- The student will be able to list seven commonly overlooked costs associated with a home detention program.
- The student will be able to discuss the limitations of an offender pay approach of funding a home detention program.

Course Materials

Students will be required to read a lecture that will be provided electronically. Additionally, several required readings will be available online. Coursework will be completed on a computer with access to the internet.

Grading Policy

Upon the successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a Certificate of Completion and, if applicable, credit for continuing education requirements. Students who complete the readings, make a genuine effort to answer the self evaluation questions and post comments on the discussion forum will pass. No grades will be given.

Course Outline

The coursework will be completed over a two week period. A Module will be completed each week.

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Module 1 (Week 1)

- The student will read the lecture prepared for this course.
- The student will read the Federal Probation book review of:
“The Electronic Monitoring of Offenders Released from Jail or Prison: Safety, Control, and Comparisons to the Incarceration Experience” by Brian K. Payne and Randy R. Gainey (December 2004)
- The student will read portions of:
“Offender Supervision with Electronic Technology: A Users Guide”, Crowe, Anne H., American Probation and Parole publication, Lexington, KY, 2002
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will post their thoughts and comments about these reading on a discussion forum and respond to comments posted by others.

Module 2 (Week 2)

- The student will read portions of:
“Electronic Monitoring vs. Halfway Houses: A Study of Federal Offenders”, Klein-Saffran, Jody, Alternatives to Incarceration, Fall 1995, pp. 24-28.

- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will read portions of:

“Electronic Monitoring”, A John Howard Society Publication, Alberta, Canada, 2000

- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will post their thoughts and comments about these reading on a discussion forum and respond to comments posted by others.

Note: The posting of comments on the forum can be done at anytime while the coursework is being completed.