

Judges asked to rule on warrantless GPS tracking

March 19 2013, by Kathy Matheson

A federal appeals court is being asked to decide if the government must obtain a warrant before placing a GPS tracker on a suspect's car.

The case before the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia involves three brothers suspected of robbing pharmacies. A [GPS device](#) led to their arrests in 2010.

Lawyers representing the trio told a three-judge panel Tuesday that warrantless tracking violates the Constitutional guarantee against unreasonable searches.

But a [federal prosecutor](#) contends that authorities followed relevant legal precedents in attaching the tracker without a warrant. He says authorities had probable cause to suspect illegal activity.

A lower court previously ruled in favor of the brothers. The Justice Department appealed based on a recent Supreme Court ruling. It's unclear when the appeals court will rule.

Copyright 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Judges asked to rule on warrantless GPS tracking (2013, March 19) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-03-warrantless-gps-tracking.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.