

US appeals court: Warrants needed for GPS tracking

November 3 2013, by Maryclaire Dale

A U.S. appeals court in Philadelphia has ruled that police can't routinely put GPS devices on vehicles without search warrants.

The ruling last month comes a year after the U.S. Supreme Court said GPS tracking constitutes a police search—but didn't say if police need warrants to use them.

Police put a GPS device under their bumper of three brothers suspected in a series of pharmacy robberies, and soon tracked them to another burglary. They found pills and other property from the pharmacy in the van.

But a federal judge threw out that evidence, and the [appeals court](#) agreed.

The American Civil Liberties Union says it would be easy for [police](#) to abuse the practice, because the devices are so cheap. The Justice Department is considering an appeal.

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