

**Name of LEA**

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Note: this media release sample can be utilized in part or in whole as appropriate for each Law Enforcement Agency (LEA).**

## **Statement on Cell Site Simulators (Date)**

In light of recent inquiry, the (LEA name) has prepared this statement.

The (LEA name) does possess a cell site simulator that is designed to allow our personnel to locate a lawfully targeted cellphone. The cell site simulator is a particularly effective tool and has assisted greatly in keeping the citizens of (name of LEA's jurisdiction or community) safe.

Unfortunately, there are widely held misconceptions about the usage of cell site simulators, partly as a result of law enforcement's decision to not disclose specific information about the devices. In the case of cell site simulators, numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have determined that the public release of technical details, applications, and operational procedures would create a significant detriment to the protection of their communities by providing criminal elements with the ability to circumvent the devices.

(LEA name) has concurred with the necessity of protecting certain aspects of the cell site simulator technology. Law enforcement agencies must always balance the desire to provide the public with full disclosure on the details of sensitive investigative and protective techniques versus the substantial risk that such knowledge would allow criminals to avoid detection and cause serious harm to law enforcement personnel and members of the community. However, in an effort to address common concerns, while also keeping the cell site simulator as a relevant tool, (LEA name) is providing the following facts on the utilization of the device.

Legal Concerns: A court order signed by a judge is required before the cell site simulator can be operated by the (LEA name). This judicial oversight ensures that usage of the cell site simulator meets the legal threshold for the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution for the State of (name).

Incidents involving an exigent circumstance, such as a kidnapping, report of a missing child, or evidence of a criminal act that could lead to imminent death or infliction of serious bodily injury are the exceptions to the requirement for immediately obtaining a court order prior to operation of the device. After the exigency circumstance has passed, (LEA name) will submit a warrant and order for judicial review for the prior operation of the device. (Note: please obtain advice from your legal counsel on accuracy of the exigency laws statement, as they will vary from state to state).

Privacy Concerns: The cell site simulator possessed by (LEA name) does not retain the third-party cellphone information that it encounters in the process of locating the targeted cellphone. The device does not create or feed any sort of database. Information evaluated or obtained by the cell site simulator is not kept or maintained by (LEA name), state, federal government agencies, Harris Corporation, or any other person or entity. The device cannot identify the operator of a cellphone. The cell site simulator cannot intercept the content of calls or texts, meaning that our personnel cannot listen to calls or read text messages using this device. The cell site simulator cannot obtain any internet based data such as emails, instant messages, social media, etc.

The cell site simulator is an excellent tool in (LEA name's) efforts to deliver the best law enforcement services and keep the citizens of (LEA name's jurisdiction or community) safe. With the greatest respect for citizens' privacy, (LEA name) will continue to use the device in a lawful and responsible manner.