

PARENTS SPY ON TEENS BY PHONE

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10 Jan04

Parents will be able to track their teenagers 24 hours a day using secret bounce-back SMS messages.

- 1 - Parents using the "text track" technology get a return SMS instantly revealing their child's location. Teens will have no idea when their parents have done a check up. Child tracking will be within the budget of average parents. Users need only a standard mobile phone. Each will cost parents about 55 cents.
- 5 - Previous tracking systems used GPS satellites costing up to \$ 1,000, and parents refused to pay. Suppliers expect a boom in the use of text track because of its affordability. Children who skip school and secret teenage lovers are the first "victims". Parents can set up a zone around their child's school or banned boyfriend's house. If the teenager leaves or enters the zone, an alarm is triggered
- 10 - and an SMS alert is instantly sent to parents.
- Parents can also set up regular location checks at set times and view their child's movements at the of a day, week or month. Tracked teens must give permission before the private operator can follow their every move, but once given it is open surveillance for parents. Phones will also have a one-touch alarm
- 15 - button for emergencies. Australian software company Internav will introduce the Findafone service in March after the success of a similar service in Britain.
- But Australia's federal privacy commissioner said yesterday the British service was leaving children open to abuse, and excess of all sorts.. He said that operators were too quick to release controversial products. "If you have
- 20 - technology as sensitive as this, you don't need to rush into the market," he said. Adolescent psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg said : "It doesn't say a lot about trust and respect. In a good family, that is functioning well, there is no need for electronic surveillance," he said.

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