



## **CRIMINAL DEFENSE - LOCATION DATA**

What attorneys and investigators need to know about cell provider records and their retention.



Get the latest IRIS LLC Cellular Service Provider [Retention Schedule](#) and [Subpoena Guide](#) here.

Effective use of location data begins with having the knowledge of what information to get and where to find it. But the most important thing to know is that it is time sensitive so it must be prioritized early.

Cellular service providers have location data records you may not have considered. These records can be a significant source of information, but are more time sensitive than other records because of each providers record retention. For example, when a person is travelling, and their mobile device is idle, the device could be connecting to roaming networks, Wi-Fi hotspots, cell site towers, etc. Each of these actions leaves a footprint of locations that are contained in unique service provider records.

### ***“Harness the power of knowledge.”***

We explain what service provider records are available, how long they are kept and how to get them. We combined these free resources and more in our **IRIS LLC Digital Evidence Toolbox**. These resources include an up-to-date subpoena guide for all the major cellular and internet service providers. They also include updated 2018 retention schedules for the main cellular service providers and descriptions of the types of records to request.





### Cellular Service Providers

There are five companies that provide cellular service in the United States, although many of these companies provide service under additional names. Other companies lease access and resell devices for one or more of the five major providers listed above. Our new *IRIS LLC Cellular Service Provide Retention Schedule* identified these subsidiaries and the most up to date data retention information available.

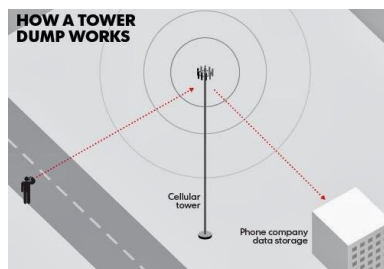
### Types of Location Data Records

Because the way the cellular technology works, location data could be requested in three areas:

1. Tower Dump
2. Historical call detail/cell site records
3. Per Call Measurement Data (PCMD)

### **Tower Dump**

A tower dump is a report of all devices connected to a cell site at a certain point in time.



*For more information on cell site records including interpreting and plotting location data from call records, see [call detail and cell site analysis drawer here](#).*





## Historical Cell Site

Historical cell site data is combined with call detail records and are based off cell sites that a device used to handle the calls and data.

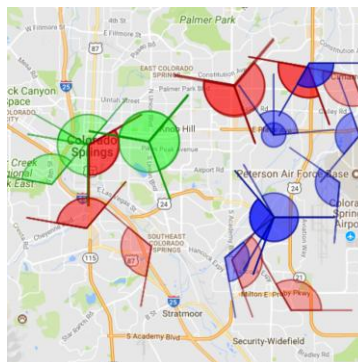


These records were intended for billing purposes and for the development of cellular networks and many variables affect the accuracy of historical cell-site records.

*For more information on cell site records including interpreting and plotting see [call detail and cell site analysis drawer here](#).*

## Per Call Measurement Data (PCMD)

PCMD is captured anytime there is a connection or data event between the cell site and the mobile device. The distance a cell phone is from a particular cell tower is recorded by the service provider and reportedly accurate to within as little as 10 meters, much more accurate than historical cell site data.



The PCMD records have short retention periods. For example the retention for AT&T PCMD called, NELOS (Network Enabled Location Services) is only available for 180 days.

*For more information about Per Call Measurement Data see [IRIS LLC Guide: Location Data Cell Service Providers](#).*





### Cellular Service Providers Records Requests & Retention

All of the main cellular providers handle records, retention and requests differently. Data retention periods vary by provider and type of data.

*For our new, updated Cellular Service Provider Retention Schedule see the [Retention Letter and Sample Letters of Preservation Drawer here.](#)*

### Subpoena

For a complete and up-to-date listing of the cellular service provider's subpoena information, see the latest IRIS LLC Cellular Telephone and Social Media Subpoena Guide.

*For our new, updated Cellular Service Provider Subpoena Guide, see the [Service Provider Subpoena Guide & Samples Drawer here.](#)*

## **CONCLUSION**

It is estimated that there are 400 million mobile devices currently in use in the United States. These devices store location data in the device itself with the cellular service provider, as well as internet records. As people carry their devices with them almost everywhere they go, the location tracking information they provide could potentially be a factor in just about every case.

If you have a case involving location data, rapidly assess the device, the cellular service provider and the internet service provider for possible location data.

With a basic understanding of where location data evidence can be found and how it works, combined with our solutions for managing digital location data evidence and other resources from our online IRIS LLC Digital Evidence Toolbox, a reliable, repeatable assessment and preservation process can be developed.





## DIGITAL EVIDENCE TOOLBOX

For more topics and information on digital evidence, see our toolbox at:  
<http://www.irisinvestigations.com/wordpress/iris-digital-evidence-toolbox/>



For more information on location evidence, call now and speak with a certified expert. I.R.I.S. LLC is available 24 hours in emergency cases.



**WE'RE CERTIFIED.**

