



November 08, 2024

Personally Identifying Information

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Personally Identifying Information

Reference Number: CTAS-1170

In 2016 the General Assembly amended T.C.A. § 10-7-504 to provide that no governmental entity shall publicly disclose *personally identifying information* of any citizen of the state unless: (i) Permission is given by the citizen; (ii) Distribution is authorized under state or federal law; or (iii) Distribution is made: (a) To a consumer reporting agency as defined by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq.); (b) To a financial institution subject to the privacy provisions of the federal Gramm Leach Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. § 6802); or (c) To a financial institution subject to the International Money Laundering Abatement and Financial Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001 (31 U.S.C. §§ 5311 et seq.).

The law defines "personally identifying information" to include: (i) Social security numbers; (ii) Official state or government issued driver licenses or identification numbers; (iii) Alien registration numbers or passport numbers; (iv) Employer or taxpayer identification numbers; (v) Unique biometric data, such as fingerprints, voice prints, retina or iris images, or other unique physical representations; or (vi) Unique electronic identification numbers, routing codes or other personal identifying data which enables an individual to obtain merchandise or service or to otherwise financially encumber the legitimate possessor of the identifying data.

The law provides that it does not prohibit the use of personally identifying information by a governmental entity in the performance of its functions or the disclosure of personally identifying information to another governmental entity, or an agency of the federal government, or a private person or entity that has been authorized to perform certain duties as a contractor of the governmental entity.

The name, mailing address, physical address, phone number, email address, social security number, or any other personally identifying information provided by an individual, whether or not the individual is a citizen of this state, as part of the individual's use of, or participation in, a government-sponsored or -supported property alert service or program, is not a public record and is not open for public inspection. "Property alert service or program" refers to an online service that electronically alerts participants when a document is filed and indexed in the register of deed's office that references the participant's name or address.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/personally-identifying-information>