

Government agencies are finding all kinds of excuses for identity theft. In reality they are more the cause than the solution because they are supplying an unabated supply of fresh Social Security numbers right on to the Internet. The only way to get your private information taken offline is to ask in writing.

This is something the data brokers and County Recorders want. This is *NOT* something the people want. Most folks are dead set against it altogether even if it means mortgages would be slower and more expensive. Greater than 95% of taxpayers do not support posting of mortgage documents on the Internet yet a majority of states continue to do it against the will of the people. The IowaLandRecords.org site is there to lower the bottom line of abstractors and title search companies. The site was misused by everyone from the public to bail bondsmen finding Social Security numbers and "dig" searches without the due process the law requires for this information.

A much better system would be one in which they need to ask you and obtain your permission in writing before posting your information online and you get a "proof" of what will and will not be posted prior to posting. This is called informed consent. There needs to be framework for abuse victims to have complete privacy. Other people choose what information gets released for free. Good Samaritans will release basic information without hesitation but the rest of us that want privacy get it by default.

We need to ban "dig" sites because a dig is not a search. Finding out who owns a property is much different than being able to find out if a certain person owns any land anywhere in the state. Only law enforcement and court orders need to have the "dig" capabilities.

Do not make use of any information system anonymous. I should be able to know who has looked up my records. The flipside I should know which records are being accessed by a particular user of a public information system. This is called built-in 2-way auditing. Users of these sites need to be validated with a valid Iowa Drivers License or some other form of US government issued ID. Abstractors could have a backdoor but only with background checks and built-in 2-way auditing available to the record holders.

Lawyers and Lobbyists for the data brokers are burning the taxpayers at the stake with their own information as the fuel for the fire.

Any viable law against posting of Social Security numbers online must be short and sweet to allow certain passage and sound principles. California was a failure in part. A good law can be expanded most certainly as the results will be appreciated by the taxpayers. There must be a penalty and fine for posting Social Security numbers online, as well as, a nice reward for the folks finding them.

Fix what we have now, here are some recommendations

- 1-Get the Social Security Number record types in Iowa taken off the Internet ASAP.
- 2-Take mortgage PDFs offline forever, they contain too much private data.
- 3-Shore up access and add 2-way auditing at the recorder's office and online.
- 4-Remove anonymity from the public records access of "land" type records.
- 5-Screen users and require valid state ID to access public "land" records.
- 6-Let the people decide what really needs to be publically available for download.
- 7-Get rid of "dig" searches replace with property searches.

- 8-Never listen to the lies of the data brokers and their lobbyists and profiteers.
- 9-Treat everyone's personal records with the same respect Military discharge records get.
- 10-Require informed written consent for posting of anyone's "public" information.
- 11-Create penalties for posting SSN, Unlisted Phone Numbers, etc. and rewards for finding breaches.

People don't realize this is only phase 1. Once we shore up public records access online they are going to come right into our recorder's offices from places like Russia and Nigeria. Social Security numbers are worth. We need to have protection online and offline because legitimate users of the system do not mind at all providing their ID to access a document and knowing that is recorded for the record owner to openly see and share.