

# IDENTITY-PROTECTION POLICY

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The St. Charles Public Library District (“the Library”) adopts this Identity-Protection Policy pursuant to the Identity Protection Act 5 ILCS 179/1 *et seq.* The Identity Protection Act requires each local and State government agency to draft, approve, and implement an Identity-Protection Policy to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of Social Security numbers agencies collect, maintain, and use. It is important to safeguard Social Security numbers (SSNs) against unauthorized access because SSNs can be used to facilitate identity theft. One way to better protect SSNs is to limit the widespread dissemination of those numbers. The Identity Protection Act was passed in part to require local and State government agencies to assess their personal information collection practices, and make necessary changes to those practices to ensure confidentiality.

## **Social Security Number Protections Pursuant to Law**

Whenever an individual is asked to provide a SSN, the Library shall provide that individual with a statement of the purpose or purposes for which the Library is collecting and using the Social Security number. The Library shall also provide the statement of purpose upon request. That Statement of Purpose is attached to this Policy.

The Library shall not:

- 1) Publicly post or publicly display in any manner an individual’s Social Security number. “Publicly post” or “publicly display” means to intentionally communicate or otherwise intentionally make available to the general public.
- 2) Print an individual’s Social Security number on any card required for the individual to access products or services provided by the person or entity.
- 3) Require an individual to transmit a Social Security number over the Internet, unless the connection is secure or the Social Security number is encrypted.
- 4) Print an individual’s Social Security number on any materials that are mailed to the individual, through the U.S. Postal Service, any private mail service, electronic mail, or any similar method of delivery, unless State or federal law requires the Social Security number to be on the document to be mailed. SSNs may be included in applications and forms sent by mail, including, but not limited to, any material mailed in connection with the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act, any material mailed in connection with any tax administered by the Department of Revenue, and documents sent as part of an application or enrollment process or to establish, amend, or terminate an account, contract, or policy or to confirm the accuracy of the Social Security number. A Social Security number that is permissibly mailed will not be printed, in whole or in part, on a postcard or other mailer that does not require an envelope or be visible on an envelope without the envelope having been opened.

- 5) Collect, use, or disclose a Social Security number from an individual, unless:
  - (i). required to do so under State or federal law, rules, or regulations, or the collection, use, or disclosure of the Social Security number is otherwise necessary for the performance of the Library's duties and responsibilities;
  - (ii). the need and purpose for the Social Security number is documented before collection of the Social Security number; and
  - (iii). the Social Security number collected is relevant to the documented need and purpose.
- 6) Require an individual to use his or her Social Security number to access an Internet website.
- 7) Use the Social Security number for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was collected.

Prohibitions numbered 5-7 do not apply in the following circumstances:

- a. The disclosure of Social Security numbers to agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors of a governmental entity or disclosure by a governmental entity to another governmental entity or its agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors if disclosure is necessary in order for the entity to perform its duties and responsibilities; and, if disclosing to a contractor or subcontractor, prior to such disclosure, the governmental entity must first receive from the contractor or subcontractor a copy of the contractor's or subcontractor's policy that sets forth how the requirements imposed under this Act on a governmental entity to protect an individual's Social Security number will be achieved.
- b. The disclosure of Social Security numbers pursuant to a court order, warrant, or subpoena.
- c. The collection, use, or disclosure of Social Security numbers in order to ensure the safety of: State and local government employees; persons committed to correctional facilities, local jails, and other law-enforcement facilities or retention centers; wards of the State; and all persons working in or visiting a State or local government agency facility.
- d. The collection, use, or disclosure of Social Security numbers for internal verification or administrative purposes.
- e. The disclosure of Social Security numbers by a State agency to any entity for the collection of delinquent child support or of any State debt or to a governmental agency to assist with an investigation or the prevention of fraud.
- f. The collection or use of Social Security numbers to investigate or prevent fraud, to conduct background checks, to collect a debt, to obtain a credit report from a consumer reporting agency under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, to undertake any permissible purpose that is enumerated under the federal Gramm Leach Bliley Act, or to locate a missing person, a lost relative, or a person who is due a benefit, such as a pension benefit or an unclaimed property benefit.

### **Requirement to Redact Social Security Numbers**

The Library shall comply with the provisions of any other State law with respect to allowing the public inspection and copying of information or documents containing all or any portion of an individual's Social Security number. The Library shall redact social security numbers from the information or documents before allowing the public inspection or copying of the information or documents.

When collecting Social Security numbers, the Library shall request each SSN in a manner that makes the SSN easily redacted if required to be released as part of a public records request. “Redact” means to alter or truncate data so that no more than five sequential digits of a Social Security number are accessible as part of personal information.

**Employee Access to Social Security Numbers**

Only employees who are required to use or handle information or documents that contain SSNs will have access. All employees who have access to SSNs are trained to protect the confidentiality of SSNs.

Adopted 4/13/2011  
Reviewed 11/2023

# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR COLLECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

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## **What does the St. Charles Public Library do with your Social Security Number?**

The Identity Protection Act, 5 ILCS 179/1 *et seq.*, requires each local and State government agency to draft, approve, and implement an Identity-Protection Policy that includes a statement of the purpose or purposes for which the agency is collecting and using an individual's Social Security number (SSN). This statement of purpose is being provided to you because you have been asked by the Library to provide your SSN or because you requested a copy of this statement.

## **Why does the Library collect your Social Security number?**

You are being asked for your SSN for one or more of the following reasons:

- Complaint mediation or investigation;
- Crime victim compensation;
- Vendor services, such as executing contracts and/or billing;
- Law enforcement investigation;
- Child support collection;
- Internal verification;
- Administrative services; and/or
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **What does the Library do with your Social Security number?**

- We will only use your SSN for the purpose for which it was collected.
- We will not:
  - Sell, lease, loan, trade, or rent your SSN to a third party for any purpose;
  - Publicly post or publicly display your SSN;
  - Print your SSN on any card required for you to access our services;
  - Require you to transmit your SSN over the Internet, unless the connection is secure or your SSN is encrypted; or
  - Print your SSN on any materials that are mailed to you, unless State or Federal law requires that number to be on documents mailed to you, or unless we are confirming the accuracy of your SSN.

## **Questions or Complaints about this Statement of Purpose**

Write to:      Library Director  
                    St. Charles Public Library District  
                    One S. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
                    St. Charles, IL 60174