



**TOM DALY**  
CLERK-RECORDER

PROPERTY RECORDS  
BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS  
MARRIAGE LICENSES/RECORDS  
PASSPORTS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES  
NOTARY REGISTRATION  
ORANGE COUNTY ARCHIVES

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Questions? Contact: Jean Pasco (714) 834-2083  
[Jean.Pasco@rec.ocgov.com](mailto:Jean.Pasco@rec.ocgov.com)

**PRIVACY PROTECTION FOR VETERANS URGED**

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Tom Daly has asked U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to modify a critical military release form used by veterans across the country to better protect them against identity theft.

The 2008 Defense Authorization Bill (HR 4986), recently signed into law, includes direction for the Department of Defense to determine whether military discharge forms—known as DD Form 214—can be issued with just the last four digits of a veteran's Social Security Number displayed. The direction was included in language added by Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Santa Ana) in consultation with Daly's office.

Daly said veterans frequently visit his office to record their discharge forms so they have swift and secure access to them should the original become lost, stolen or unreadable. Veterans recording their forms in California must sign an acknowledgement (under California Govt. Code Sect. 27337) that the document and its contents will become part of the public record.

Many veterans decline to record their forms – denying themselves an important safeguard – out of fear that their personal information would be readily available.

"Approving this slight modification to the DD Form 214 would better protect veterans and provide a greater sense of security for them," Daly said.

"It is my hope that the Department of Defense will report back that it is feasible to allow our veterans safe storage of their records without subjecting them to risk of identity theft," Sanchez said. "I look forward to working with the Department of Defense and Tom Daly's office on this issue."

On Jan. 1, a new state law – also developed by Daly's office – went into effect requiring other documents recorded in the state to contain just the last four digits of any Social Security Number. Displaying the last four digits allows the identity of individuals to be confirmed without exposing them to identity theft, Daly said.

The Orange County Clerk-Recorder provides a variety of public services, including recording documents related to real property transactions, maintaining and issuing copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, issuing marriage licenses and performing civil wedding ceremonies. The department also oversees the Orange County Archives, a center for materials, research and education preserving Orange County history for the public.