



TOM DALY

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

ORANGE COUNTY HALL OF RECORDS AND FINANCE
12 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, ROOM 101, P.O. BOX 238, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92702-0238
PHONE (714) 834-2500 FAX (714) 834-2675
WWW.OCRECORDER.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 4, 2007

CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL BECOMES LAW

A key consumer protection bill to safeguard the privacy of Social Security numbers in California will take effect Jan. 1.

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Tom Daly proposed the bill, SB644, which was carried by Sen. Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana). Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the measure on Aug. 31.

The new law better protects California consumers against identity theft and identity fraud. It requires documents recorded at county offices statewide to limit Social Security numbers to the last four digits.

The bill was a direct response to consumer concerns, Daly said.

"Our customers expect government to protect them from fraud, and I agree," Daly said. "This change makes sense. We'll be looking for other ways to preserve the integrity of public records."

Daly praised Correa for aggressively supporting the bill through the legislative process. He also thanked the members of Orange County's legislative delegation, who signed on to the bill as co-authors. The bill was endorsed by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the County Recorders Association.

State law already goes far toward protecting privacy rights. Social Security numbers aren't required for most documents submitted for recording. However, many documents include full Social Security numbers anyway, including liens, lien releases and abstracts of judgment. Recorders have not had the legal authority to refuse to record them.

Restricting Social Security numbers to the last four digits still allows the identity of individuals to be confirmed without exposing them to potential identity theft, Daly said.

The Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department processes vital records countywide, including property records, birth certificates and marriage licenses. The office also oversees the Orange County Archives. The Clerk-Recorder is a countywide elected office.

Bill text: http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_644&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen

For more information: Contact Tom Daly, Orange County Clerk-Recorder, at (714) 834-2248.

###