



Privacy Act of 1974

Limits access to personal information.

Information must be relevant and necessary to accomplish the mission

The Privacy Act states, in part,

No agency shall disclose any record which is contained in a system of records by any means of communication to any person, or to another agency, except pursuant to a written request by, or with the prior written consent of, the individual to whom the record pertains.....

There are specific exceptions for the record allowing the use of personal records:

1. For statistical purposes by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics
2. For routine uses within a U.S. government agency
3. For archival purposes "as a record which has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the United States Government"
4. For law enforcement purposes
5. For Congressional Investigations
6. Other administrative purposes

The Privacy Act mandates that each United States Government agency have in place an administrative and physical security system to prevent the unauthorized release of personal records.

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, P.L. 100-503, amended the Privacy Act of 1974 by adding certain protections for the subjects of Privacy Act records whose records are used in automated matching programs. These protections have been mandated to ensure:

1. Procedural uniformity in carrying out matching program;
2. Due process for subjects in order to protect their rights, and
3. Oversight of matching programs through the establishment of Data Integrity Boards at each agency engaging in matching to monitor the agency's matching activity.