

## What is Privacy?



### *It Depends Who You Ask*

Broadly speaking, privacy is about the right to be left alone, or freedom from interference or intrusion. *Information privacy*, more specifically, is the right to have control over how your personal information is collected and used.

### *Does Form Matter?*

No. Personal information can take any form such as paper records, electronic records, digital photographs, videos, audio files, writing in personal journals, on Post-It Notes, in a scribbler, even on the bathroom wall.

### *The “Right to be Let Alone” was first articulated in 1890*

*“The press is overstepping in every direction the obvious bounds of propriety and of decency....To satisfy a prurient taste the details of sexual relations are spread broadcast in the columns of the daily papers. To occupy the indolent, column upon column is filled with idle gossip, which can only be procured by intrusion upon the domestic circle.”*

*-Warren & Brandeis, Harvard Law Review, 1890*

## Did You Know?

Under the privacy legislation, we have the legal authority to collect the personal information we need to perform our jobs as long as we tell people--at the time of collection--why, how it will be used and who they can contact if they have questions/concerns. We must obtain consent for the collection or disclosure of information that is outside of what is necessary to perform our duties.

## Challenge

Think about all of the personal information you work with. What are some of the ways in which you uphold the rights of individuals to remain in control of their personal information?

## What is Personal Information?



Personal information means recorded information about an identifiable individual, including:

- Name
- Age, date of birth
- Appearance
- Race
- Religion
- National or ethnic origin
- Sex/sexual orientation
- Marital or family status
- Academic achievement
- Financial history
- Medical history
- Psychiatric history
- Criminal history
- Identifying number
- Employment history
- Credit records
- Address
- Phone number
- Fingerprints
- Character/reputation
- Personal opinions