

# SAFEGUARDING TAX INFORMATION



Lesson contains audio  
Headphones recommended





Returns

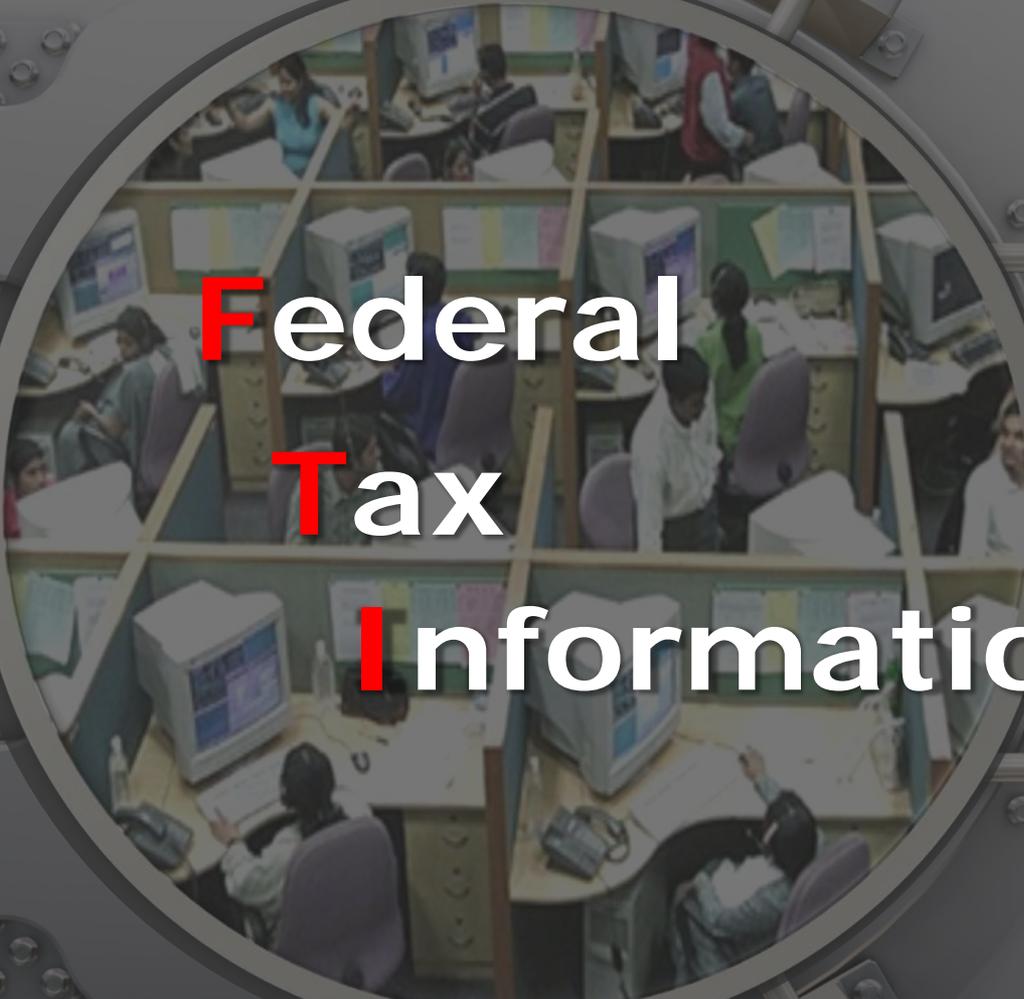
Conversations

Payments

Audit Reports

Correspondence

Notes

A large circular window in the center of the image provides a view into a busy office. Several employees are seated at desks, working on computers. The office is filled with cubicles, desks, and office equipment. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a typical workday.

# Federal Tax Information



**What** con

**Where**

**How** to

**When** to



on

disclosures



**Locate non-filers**

**Identify potential audit candidates**



# UNAX

**Unauthorized Access and  
Inspection of Taxpayer Information**



# Revenue Agent Reports Federal Transcripts



# ADVANTAGE Revenue

Siebel

CACSG

Screen May Contain Federal Information. 

**Name**

Last:  First:  MI:

Title:  Suffix:

**Customer**

SSII:  Registration Status:

Status:   Deceased

**Primary Address**

Street:

City:  State:

Undeliverable



Compliance  
Repository



**1040** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return  
Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service  
OMB No. 1545-0047  
For the year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2010, or other tax year beginning 2010 ending

**Taxpayer Provided**

**Name, Address, and SSN**  
Your first name and initial: John P.  
Last name: Taxpayer  
Home address (number and street): 600 E. Main St.  
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code: Richmond, VA 23220  
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code if you have a foreign address: See instructions.

**Filing Status**  
1  Single  
2  Married filing jointly (even if only one had income)  
3  Married filing separately. Enter spouse's SSN above and full name here.

**Exemptions**  
6a  Yourself. If someone can claim you as a dependent, do not check box 17.  
b  Spouse  
c Dependents:  
(1) First name Last name  
7 8a 9a 10 11 12 13 14 15a 16a 17 18 19 20a 21 22 23 24 25

**Income**  
7 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2  
8a Taxable interest. Attach Schedule B if required  
b Tax-exempt interest. Do not include on line 8a  
9a Ordinary dividends  
b Qualified dividends  
10 Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state and local income taxes  
11 Alimony received  
12 Business income or (loss). Attach Schedule C or C-EZ  
13 Capital gain or (loss). Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here  
14 Other gains or (losses). Attach Form 4797  
15a IRA distributions  
16a Pensions and annuities  
17 Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. Attach Schedule E  
18 Farm income or (loss). Attach Schedule F  
19 Unemployment compensation  
20a Social security benefits  
20b Taxable amount  
21 Other income. List type and amount  
22 Combine the amounts in the far right column for lines 7 through 21. This is your total income  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**CONFIDENTIAL STATE TAX INFORMATION**

Check only one box.  
Presidential Election Campaigns:  Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want \$3 to go to this fund.  
Head of household (with qualifying person). (See instructions.) If the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent, enter this child's name here.  4  
Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child.  5  
Boxes checked on 6a and 6b:  
No. of children on 6c who:  
• lived with you  
• did not live with you due to divorce or separation (see instructions)  
Dependents not entered or not entered on 6c: 1  
Add number lines above: 25





**DISCLOSURE**



## Authorized Disclosure

- TAX Employees
- Taxpayers
- Third Parties with POA

# DISCLOSURE



## Authorized Disclosure

- TAX Employees
- Taxpayers
- Third Parties with POA

## Unauthorized Disclosure

- Inadvertent/Unintentional
- Advertent/Intentional



**IMPROPER IDENTIFICATION**



**PUBLIC AREAS**

**UNAUTHORIZED  
DISCLOSURE**



**PERSONAL USE**



**NON WORK-RELATED**



## Browsing = Unauthorized Disclosure

**brows.ing** (*brouz-ing*) The access or examination of confidential tax records without an assignment or business reason for doing so. *See also UNAX.*

### Viewing your tax records

### Viewing taxpayer information without a work related reason

- Friends
- Neighbors
- Acquaintances
- Celebrities/VIPs



## Browsing = Unauthorized Disclosure

**brows.ing** (*brouz-ing*) The access or examination of confidential tax records without an assignment or business reason for doing so. *See also UNAX.*

### Viewing your tax records

### Viewing taxpayer information without a work related reason

- Friends
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- Celebrities/VIPs

## Tax Code of Virginia

### Section 58.1 Secrecy of Information; Penalties

Except in accordance with proper judicial order or as otherwise provided by law, the Tax Commissioner or agent, clerk, commissioner of the revenue, treasurer, or any other state or local tax or revenue officer or employee, or any former officer or employee of any of the aforementioned offices shall not divulge any information acquired by him in the performance of his duties with respect to the transactions, property, including personal property, income or business of any person, firm or corporation.

Such prohibition specifically includes any copy of Federal returns or Federal return information required by Virginia law to be attached to or included in the Virginia return.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

## Notes

Applies to:

- TAX Commissioner, Agent, or Clerk
- Commissioner of Revenue
- Treasurer
- State or Local Tax Employee
- Former Employees

Protects Federal and State Return Data:

- Transactions
- Property
- Business, Corporate, Individual Income

Penalty

- Class 2 Misdemeanor

## Internal Revenue Code

### Section 6103: Confidentiality and Disclosure of Returns and Return Information

General Rule - Returns and return information shall be confidential, and except as authorized by this title:

1. no officer or employee of the United States
2. no officer or employee of any State, any local child support enforcement agency, or any local agency administering a program listed in subsection (1)(7)(D) who has or had access to returns or return information under this section, and
3. no other person (or officer or employee thereof) who has or had access to returns or return information under subsection (e)(1)(D)(iii), paragraph (2) or (4)(B) of subsection (m) or subsection (n)

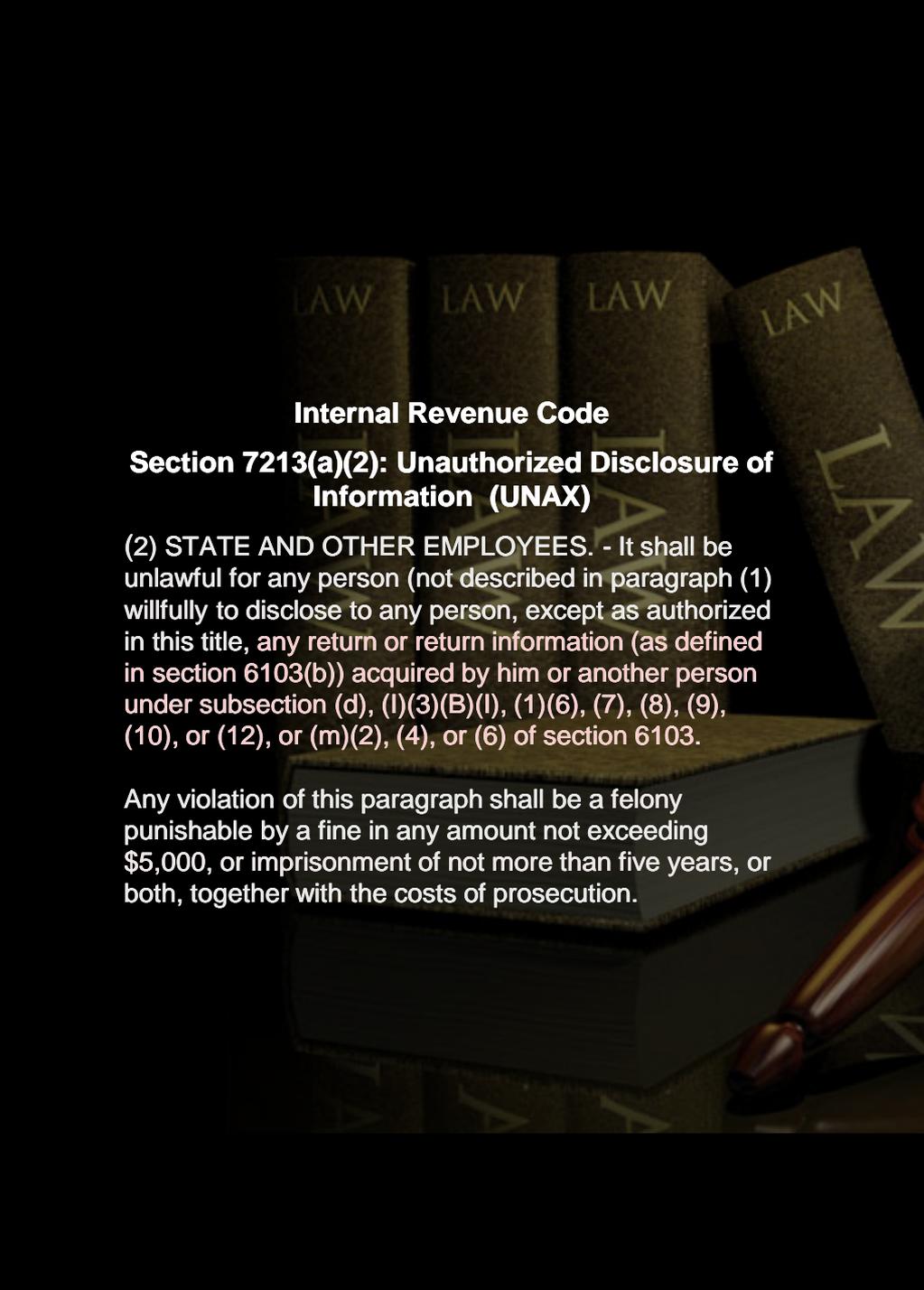
shall disclose any return or return information obtained by him in any manner in connection with his service. For purposes of this subsection, the term "officer or employee" includes any former officer or employee..

## Notes

Defines return information as confidential

Extends disclosure to:

- U.S. Officers/Employees
- State and Local Officers/Employees
- ANY person with access to returns
- All former Officers/Employees

The background of the left side of the slide features a stack of four dark brown law books with the word "LAW" embossed on their spines. A wooden gavel and a pen are also visible, resting on the books. The overall lighting is dramatic, with highlights on the edges of the books and the pen.

## Internal Revenue Code

### Section 7213(a)(2): Unauthorized Disclosure of Information (UNAX)

(2) STATE AND OTHER EMPLOYEES. - It shall be unlawful for any person (not described in paragraph (1)) willfully to disclose to any person, except as authorized in this title, any return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) acquired by him or another person under subsection (d), (1)(3)(B)(i), (1)(6), (7), (8), (9), (10), or (12), or (m)(2), (4), or (6) of section 6103.

Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

## Notes

Makes disclosure unlawful to ANY person unless authorized by law

Defines return

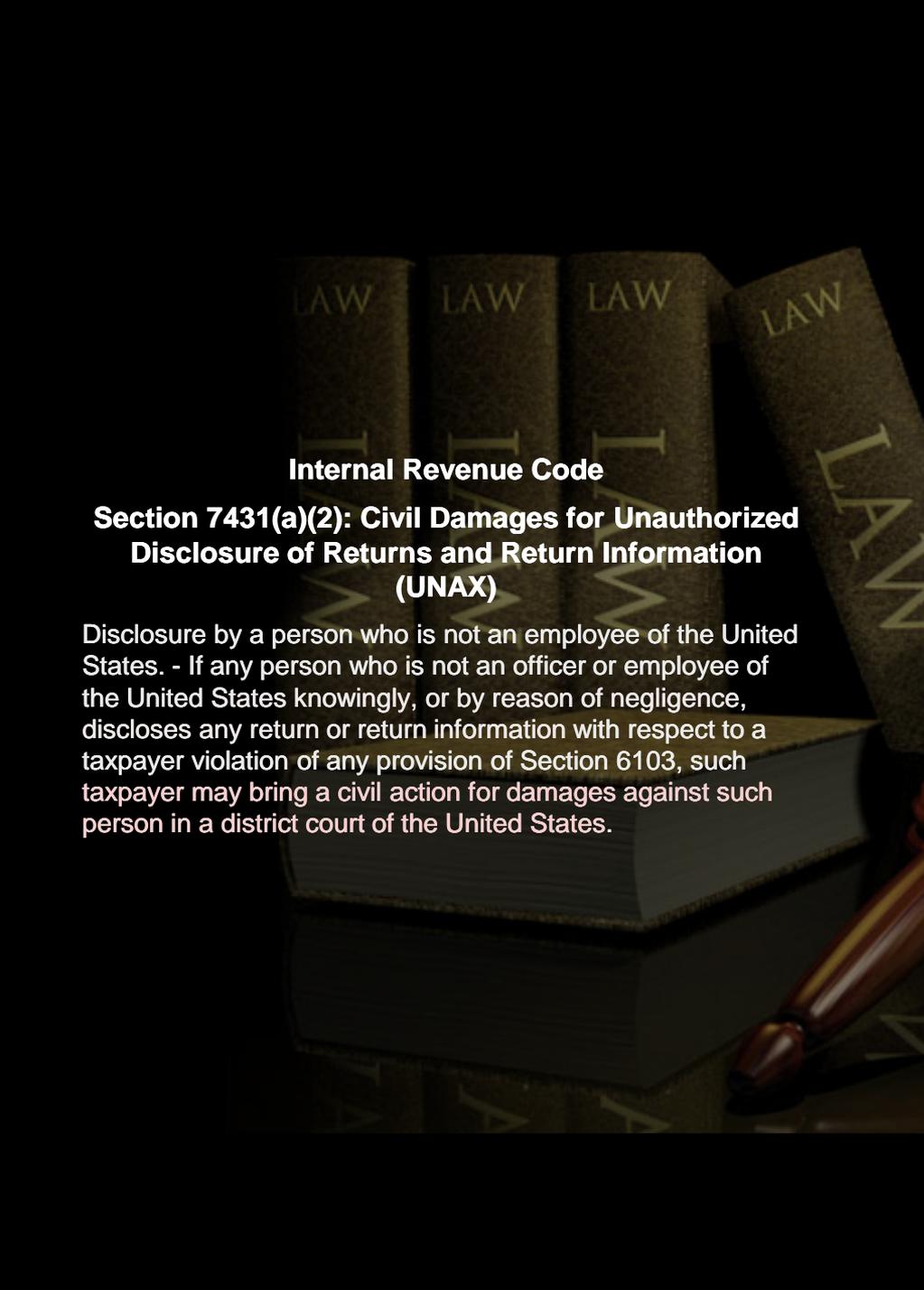
- Tax information
- Estimated tax declarations
- Refund claims

Defines return information

- Liabilities, interest, fines, forfeitures
- Taxpayer's name, addresses
- Identification numbers
- Dependent names
- Return disposition

Felony

- Fines up to \$5000
- Imprisonment up to 5 years
- Cost of prosecution

The background of the slide features a stack of four dark brown law books with the word 'LAW' embossed on their spines. A wooden gavel and a pen are also visible, resting on the books. The overall scene is dimly lit, creating a professional and legal atmosphere.

### Internal Revenue Code

#### **Section 7431(a)(2): Civil Damages for Unauthorized Disclosure of Returns and Return Information (UNAX)**

Disclosure by a person who is not an employee of the United States. - If any person who is not an officer or employee of the United States knowingly, or by reason of negligence, discloses any return or return information with respect to a taxpayer violation of any provision of Section 6103, such taxpayer may bring a civil action for damages against such person in a district court of the United States.

## Notes

Broadens disclosure definition to include negligence

Allows taxpayer to seek civil damages

## Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act (1997)

PUBLIC LAW 105-35 AUG 5, 1997

TAXPAYER BROWSING PROTECTION ACT

## Notes

Civil damages for unauthorized inspection or disclosure.

Taxpayer may receive damages of \$1000 or actual damage amount

Jail terms up to six months



## TAX Standards of

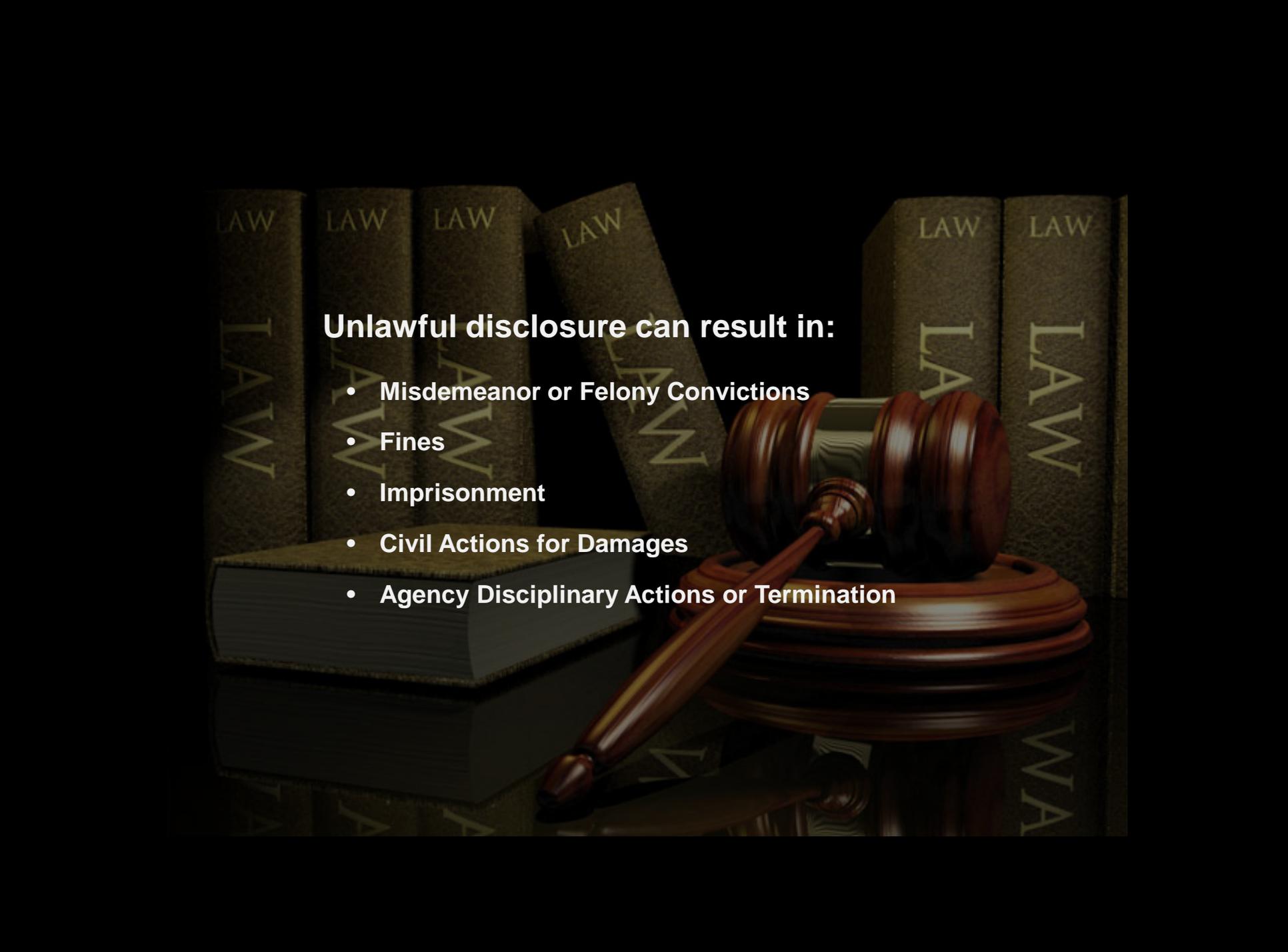
- Group 1, 2 or 3 N
- Termination

## Notes

Civil damages for unauthorized inspection or disclosure.

Taxpayer may receive damages of \$1000 or actual damage amount

Jail terms up to six months

A wooden gavel with a dark handle and a rounded head, resting on a stack of several law books. The spines of the books are dark brown and have the word 'LAW' embossed on them in a light color. The scene is set against a dark, reflective background.

## **Unlawful disclosure can result in:**

- **Misdemeanor or Felony Convictions**
- **Fines**
- **Imprisonment**
- **Civil Actions for Damages**
- **Agency Disciplinary Actions or Termination**

**DISCLOSURE**



**DISCLOSURE OFFICER: DON STAPLES**

Liaison between TAX and IRS



**DISCLOSURE OFFICER: DON STAPLES**

Liaison between TAX and IRS

**FEDERAL SAFEGUARD COORDINATOR: CHERYL FOX**

Oversees on-going compliance with federal safeguarding requirements





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## **FEDERAL SAFEGUARD COORDINATOR: CHERYL FOX**

Oversees on-going compliance with federal safeguarding requirements



## **AGENCY SAFEGUARD ANALYST**

Prepares monthly, quarterly and annual reports and assist Federal Safeguard Coordinator with compliance and safeguarding issues



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## **AGENCY SAFEGUARD ANALYST**

Prepares monthly, quarterly and annual reports and assist Federal Safeguard Coordinator with compliance and safeguarding issues

## **SAFEGUARD SECURITY MANAGER**

Primary contact between TAX and Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) regarding security of TAX systems



# Publication 1075

Tax Information Security Guidelines  
For Federal, State and Local Agencies

*Safeguards for Protecting Federal Tax Returns and Return Information*



Access

Storage

Destruction

## Publication 1075

Tax Information Security Guidelines  
For Federal, State and Local Agencies

*Safeguards for Protecting Federal Tax Returns and Return Information*



## Access

- Job Related
- Need to Know Basis



**S.A.F.E.**



Screen May Contain Federal Information.

Name

Last:  First:  MI:   
Title:  Suffix:

Customer

SSN:  Registration Status:   
Status:   Deceased

Primary Address

Street:   
  
City:  State:   
Zip:   Undeliverable





**RESTRICTED WORK AREA**

**FEDERAL DATA**



**\*\*\*\*\* DO NOT ENTER**

Unless you have an official need to perform a duty,  
In accordance with a signed IRS Agreement, THIS AREA IS RESTRICTED.

# Publication 1075

## Tax Information Security Guidelines For Federal, State and Local Agencies

*Safeguards for Protecting Federal Tax Returns and Return Information*



# Publication 1075

## Tax Information Security Guidelines For Federal, State and Local Agencies

*Safeguards for Protecting Federal Tax Returns and Return Information*



## Publication 1075

Tax Information  
For Federal

Safeguards for Protection



### Safeguarding Paper/Hardcopies

- ✓ Secure all federal data in bar-locked cabinets.
- ✓ Ensure no federal taxpayer information is inserted, attached or stapled to files
- ✓ Don't mail federal tax information with out approval.
- ✓ Never fax federal tax information.
- ✓ Don't view or store federal tax information at an alternate work location without authorization.
- ✓ Dispose printouts of working papers, spreadsheets, correspondence and notes by shredding or placing in locked destruction containers

# Publication 1075

Tax Information Security Guidelines  
For Federal, State and Local Agencies

*Safeguards for Protecting Federal Tax Returns and Return Information*



## Electronic Media

IRS Documents

Federal Data Files

System Applications

Working/Test Databases

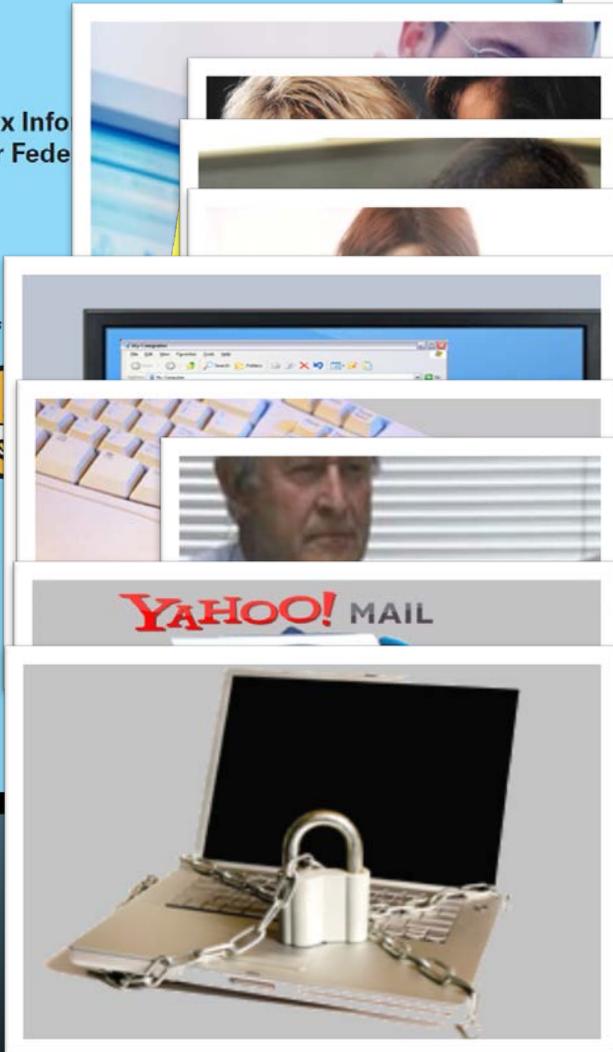
Working Electronic Files



## Publication 1075

Tax Info  
For Fede

Safeguards



## Safeguarding Electronic Data

- ✓ Never leave a workstation unattended
- ✓ Don't share your password
- ✓ Validate your own access need
- ✓ Ensure staff members you are providing files / screenshots are authorized to access the information
- ✓ Copy federal tax information to approved, secure directories
- ✓ Do not copy federal data to your PC or removable media
- ✓ Consider test data containing federal data or built from production data as confidential
- ✓ Never email federal tax information to an external email address
- ✓ Contact IT Risk Management for guidance or questions for storing electronic data with federal data

## Publication 1075

Tax Information Security Guidelines  
For Federal, State and Local Agencies

*Safeguards for Protecting Federal Tax Returns and Return Information*



## Office Disclosure Guidelines

- Disclosing taxpayer information
- Reporting procedures



**C**ode

**A**uthority

**P**rocedures



**C**ode

Freedom of Information Act Requests – Public Relations  
(Joel Davison)

Subpoenas – Customer Service  
(Shelia Akrie)

Other Disclosure Request – Disclosure Officer  
(Don Staples)

**A**uthority  
**P**rocedures





**Return all federal transcripts to Office Audit**

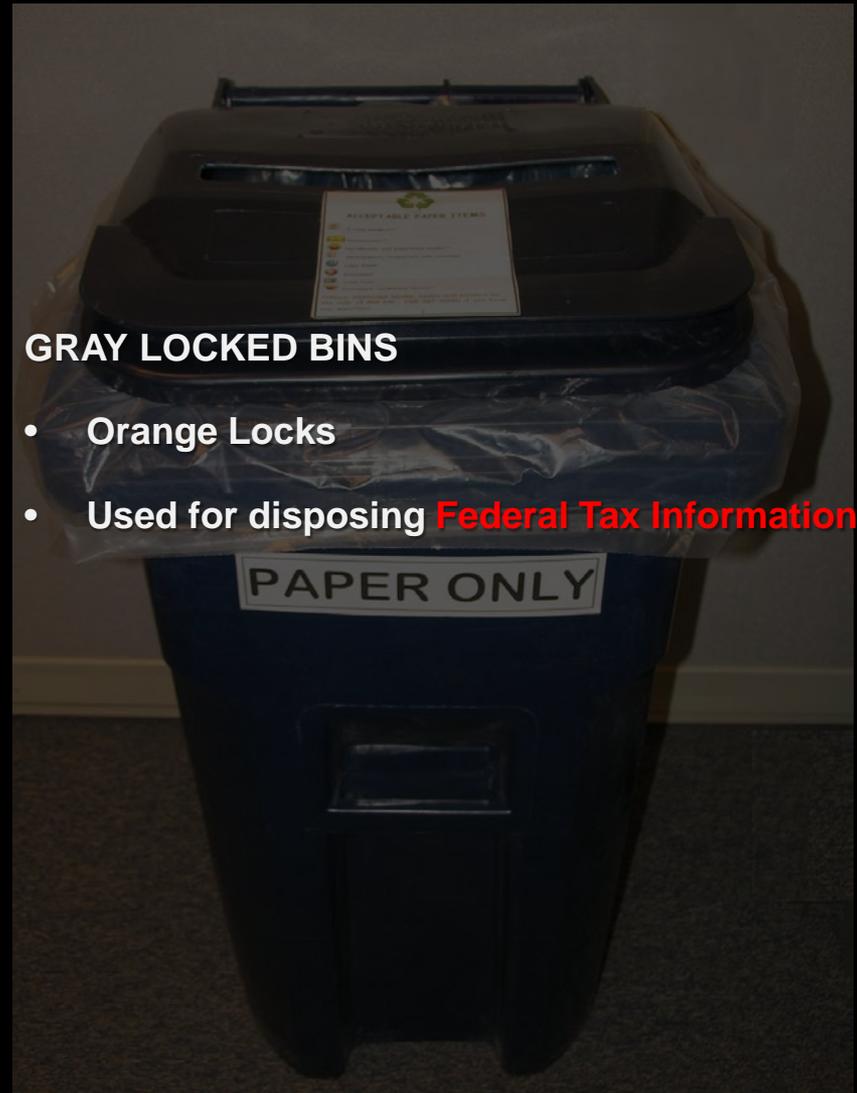
**Deposit spreadsheets, screen prints and correspondence in  
Federal Tax Information (FTI) witness destruction bins**





### BLUE BINS

- Unlocked
- Used for recycling all papers and disposing **confidential state tax information**



### GRAY LOCKED BINS

- Orange Locks
- Used for disposing **Federal Tax Information**

**Access**  
**Storage**  
**Destruction**

## Publication 1075

**Tax Information Security Guidelines  
For Federal, State and Local Agencies**

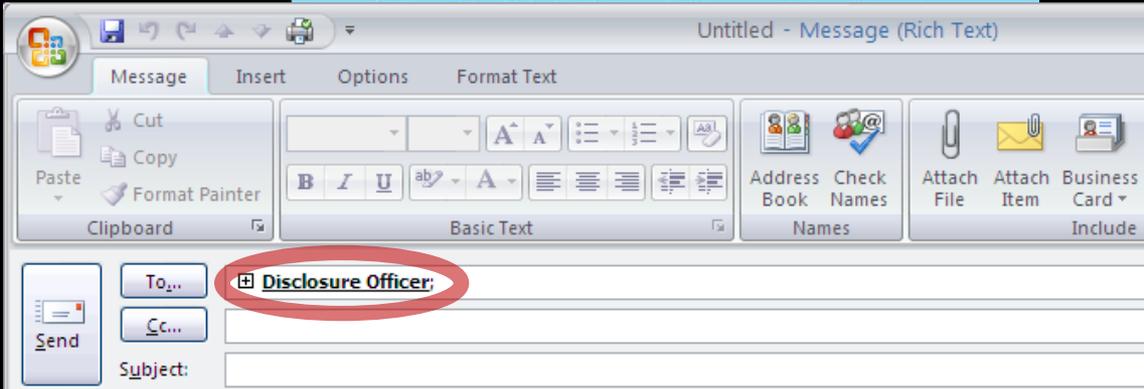
*Safeguards for Protecting Federal Tax Returns and Return Information*





# Publication 1075

## Tax Information Security Guidelines For Federal, State and Local Agencies



- WHEN** was the date of the disclosure
- WHAT** was the type of information disclosed. *If federal information is involved, describe exactly what was disclosed.*
- WHO** – disclosed the information
  - was the recipient of the disclosed information
- HOW** was the information disclosed



Internal Audit

Assistant Commissioner

Human Resources

Supervisor

Federal Safeguard Coordinator

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration  
(TIGTA)





**SAFEGUARDING  
SSA  
INFORMATION**



# SSA Provided Information

- Similar to the protection of FTI, there are federal standards that are in place that govern and safeguard electronic information provided by the Social Security Agency (SSA).
- TSSRv7 is the document that identifies the requirements in place to meet this objective. These policies and requirements govern our responsibilities of safeguarding and use of SSA provided information.

# SSA Provided Information

- The Privacy Act of 1974 is a federal law that governs the collection and use of records maintained about an individual that contains personal identifiers, such as name, social security number, or other identifying number or symbol.
- SEC501 provides additional guidance in the handling and safeguarding of Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

# SSA Provided Information

- “Personally Identifiable Information (PII),” covered under several Federal laws and statutes, refers to specific information about an individual used to trace that individual’s identity. Information such as his/her name, Social Security Number (SSN), date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name, or biometric records, alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information is linkable or lined to a specific individual’s medical, educational, financial, and employment information

# SSA Provided Information - Acronyms

- The following Acronyms are used throughout this section.
- TSSR – Technical System Security
- EIEP – Electronic Information Exchange Partners

# SSA Provided Information

1. EIEPs must ensure that means, methods, and technology used to process, maintain, transmit, or store SSA-provided information neither prevents nor impedes the EIEP's ability to:
  - safeguard the information in conformance with SSA requirements
  - efficiently investigate fraud, data breaches, or security events that involve SSA-provided information
  - detect instances of misuse or abuse of SSA-provided information

# SSA Provided Information

1. The EIEP must use the electronic connection established between the EIEP and SSA only in support of the current agreement(s) between the EIEP and SSA.
2. The EIEP must use the electronic connection established between the EIEP and SSA only in support of the current agreement(s) between the EIEP and SSA.
3. The EIEP must use the software and/or devices provided to the EIEPs only in support of the current agreement(s) between the EIEPs and SSA
4. SSA prohibits the EIEP from modifying any software or devices provided to the EIEPs by SSA.
5. EIEPs must ensure that SSA-provided information is not processed, maintained, transmitted, or stored in or by means of data communications channels, electronic devices, computers, or computer networks located in geographic or virtual areas not subject to U.S. law.

# SSA Provided Information

6. EIEPs must restrict access to the information to authorized users who need it to perform their official duties.

***NOTE: Contractors and agents (hereafter referred to as contractors) of the EIEP who process, maintain, transmit, or store SSA-provided information are held to the same security requirements as employees of the EIEP.***

7. EIEPs must store information received from SSA in a manner that, at all times, is physically and electronically secure from access by unauthorized persons.
8. The EIEP must process SSA-provided information under the immediate supervision and control of authorized personnel.
9. EIEPs must employ both physical and technological barriers to prevent unauthorized retrieval of SSA-provided information via computer, remote terminal, or other means.

# SSA Provided Information

10. EIEPs must have formal PII incident response procedures. When faced with a security incident, caused by malware, unauthorized access, software issues, or acts of nature, the EIEP must be able to respond in a manner that protects SSA-provided.
11. EIEPs must have an active and robust security awareness program, which is mandatory for all employees who access SSA-provided information. Training shall include:
  - a) The security awareness should include the sensitivity of SSA-provided information and address the Privacy Act and other Federal and state laws governing its use and misuse.
  - b) The rules of behavior concerning use and security in systems and/or applications processing SSA-provided information.
  - c) The restrictions on viewing and/or copying SSA-provided information
  - d) The responsibilities of employees, contractors, and agent's pertaining to the proper use and protection of SSA-provided information.
  - e) The proper disposal of SSA-provided information.
  - f) The security breach and data loss incident reporting procedures.
  - g) The basic understanding of procedures to protect the network from malware attacks.

# SSA Provided Information

- h) Spoofing, phishing and pharming and network fraud prevention.
- i) The possible criminal and civil sanctions and penalties for misuse of SSA-provided information

12. EIEPs must advise employees with access to SSA-provided information of the confidential nature of the information, the safeguards required to protecting the information, and the civil and criminal sanctions for non-compliance contained.

13. In accordance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) on Contingency Planning requirements and recommendations, SSA requires EIEPs to document a senior management approved Contingency plan that includes a disaster recovery plan that addresses both natural disaster and cyber-attack situations.

# SSA Provided Information

14. SSA requires the Contingency Plan to include details regarding the organizational business continuity plan (BCP) and a business impact analyses (BIA) that address the security of SSA-provided information if a disaster occurs.
15. At its discretion, SSA or its designee must have the option to conduct onsite security reviews or make other provisions, to ensure that EIEPs maintain adequate security controls to safeguard the information we provide.
16. The EIEP must ensure that means, methods, and technology used to process, maintain, transmit, or store SSA-provided information neither prevents nor impedes the EIEP's ability to:
  - a) Safeguard the information in conformance with SSA requirements.
  - b) Efficiently investigate fraud, data breaches, or security events that involve SSA-provided information.
  - c) Detect instances of misuse or abuse of SSA-provided information.

# SSA Provided Information

17. The EIEP must have formal PII incident response procedures. When faced with a security incident, caused by malware, unauthorized access, software issues, or acts of nature, the EIEP must be able to respond in a manner that protects SSA-provided information affected by the incident.
18. The EIEP must use an Intrusion Prevention Protection System (IPS) or an Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and provide continuous monitoring of its network infrastructure and assets to ensure that:
  - a) The EIEP's security controls continue to be effective over time.
  - b) The EIEP uses industry-standard Security Information Event Manager (SIEM) tools, anti-malware software, and effective antivirus protection.
  - c) Only authorized individuals, devices, and processes have access to SSA-provided information.
  - d) The EIEP detects efforts by external and internal entities, devices, or processes to perform unauthorized actions as soon as they occur.
  - e) The necessary parties are immediately alerted to unauthorized actions performed by external and internal entities, devices, or processes.

# SSA Provided Information

- f) Upon detection of unauthorized actions, measures are immediately initiated to prevent or mitigate associated risk.
- g) In the event of a data breach or security incident, the EIEP can efficiently determine and initiate necessary remedial actions.
- h) Trends, patterns, or anomalous occurrences and behavior in user or network activity that may be indicative of potential security issues are readily discernible.

19. The EIEP must employ measures to ensure that communications and data furnished to SSA contain no viruses or other malware.

20. The EIEP must have procedures in place to ensure the proper methods of media sanitization.

- a) Disposal: Refers to the discarding (e.g., recycling) media that contains no sensitive or confidential data.

# SSA Provided Information

- b) **Overwriting/Clearing:** This type of media sanitization is adequate for protecting information from a robust keyboard attack. Clearing must prevent retrieval of information by data, disk, or file recovery utilities. Clearing must be resistant to keystroke recovery attempts executed from standard input devices and from data scavenging tools. For example, overwriting is an acceptable method for clearing media. Deleting items, however, is not sufficient for clearing. This process may include overwriting all addressable locations of the data, as well as its logical storage location (e.g., its file allocation table). The aim of the overwriting process is to replace or obfuscate existing information with random data. Most rewriteable media may be cleared by a single overwrite. This method of sanitization is not possible on un-writeable or damaged media.
- c) **Purging:** This type of media sanitization is a process that protects information from a laboratory attack. The terms *clearing* and *purging* are sometimes synonymous. However, for some media, clearing is not sufficient for purging (i.e., protecting data from a laboratory attack). Although most re-writeable media requires a single overwrite, purging may require multiple rewrites using different characters for each write cycle. This is because laboratory attack involves threats with the capability to employ non-standard assets (e.g., specialized hardware) to attempt data recovery on media outside of that media's normal operating environment.
- d) **Degaussing** is also an example of an acceptable method for purging magnetic data. The EIEP should destroy media if purging is not a viable method of sanitization.

# SSA Provided Information

- e) Destruction: Physical destruction of media is the most effective form of sanitization. Methods of destruction include burning, pulverizing, and shredding. Any residual media should be able to withstand laboratory attack.

# SSA Provided Information

- *If your agency experiences or suspects a breach or loss of PII or a security incident, which includes SSA-provided information, they must notify the State official responsible for Systems Security designated in the agreement. That State official or delegate must then notify the SSA Regional Office Contact or the SSA Systems Security Contact identified in the agreement. If, for any reason, the responsible State official or delegate is unable to notify the SSA Regional Office or the SSA Systems Security Contact **within one hour**, the responsible State Agency official or delegate must report the incident by contacting **SSA's National Network Service Center (NNSC) toll free at 877-697-4889** (select "Security and PII Reporting" from the options list). The EIEP will provide updates as they become available to SSA contact, as appropriate. Refer to the worksheet provided in the agreement to facilitate gathering and organizing information about an incident.*

# SSA Provided Information

Similar to FTI data, the misuse or unauthorized disclosure of SSA-provided information can result in potential criminal and/or civil sanctions or penalties.



## SOURCES



## DISCLOSURE



## SAFEGUARDING

