

Home Address Privacy Tips to Consider

Thanks to Nathan Hall of the NCSC and Indiana Supreme Court Sheriff Joe Dowdell for some of these ideas:

- 1. Avoid opening the door of your home to any delivery person or stranger.**
- 2. Keep contact information handy of law enforcement officers** who help protect judges and their families. Understand how anyone in the household can report threats and emergencies both during and after business hours.
- 3. Encourage legislation in your state or territory that would, upon request, protect the personally identifiable information of judges as well as members of their households.** Laws or statutes exist around the nation, or are under consideration, that make it possible for a request to be made to avoid having the address on the Internet, or to delete it where it already exists. Data providers can face huge financial penalties. Judges who do not feel a need to make such requests are encouraged to support such legislation to help colleagues who need protection.
- 4. Ask government agencies to block Internet access to their records regarding your home address.** For specifics contact your state or territorial security officer or committee.
- 5. Use office address on all accounts & memberships** of appropriate persons in your home.
- 6. Remove home address from the Internet** by using a company that does the work for you, or doing it yourself. This is not a one-time project, but requires frequent, ongoing action. For names of companies you can hire, search "remove my home address from Internet" or "home address Internet removal services." Rating services or news articles may help you choose.
- 7. Use office address on the driver's licenses** of all in your home, asking law enforcement to help make that exception if necessary. When voting you may be able to take a utility bill along to prove residency.
- 8. Rent a Post Office Box or Private Mailbox.** Delivery to your home may be an option.
- 9. Keep your cell phone information private by using a VOIP (Voice over IP) number** for any of your day-to-day commercial purposes like grocery rewards, online shopping, etc. A VOIP number is a real telephone number assigned to a user, but not to a specific phone line. Using one can help keep your actual cell phone number offline. Several companies sell a VOIP number and have it redirected to your regular cell phone to keep your cell phone number from being sold by third party entities.
- 10. Discuss social media privacy with members of your family.** Exchange ideas about what type of information should not be shared online and ensure privacy controls are enabled if you must use social media pages. Once information has been posted to a social networking platform it can no longer be considered private.
- 11. See other Judicial Family Institute website "Topics & Programs" tab "Security" articles.**