



Protect Your Personal Information

Protecting your personal information is of utmost importance. You don't have to submit this information online for it to be there. Online directories and databases share this information freely. To protect your children and yourself it is wise to search and remove personal information. New sites are created frequently so this may need to be an ongoing process. Hopefully this will help you get started.

- **Privacy: Tips for Protecting Your Personal Information** (Federal Trade Commission)... Every day you share personal information about yourself with others. It's so routine that you may not even realize you're doing it. You may...
 - write a check at the grocery store,
 - charge tickets to a ball game,
 - rent a car,
 - mail your tax returns,
 - buy a gift online,
 - call home on your cell phone,
 - or apply for a credit card.

Each transaction requires you to share personal information: your bank and credit card account numbers; your income; your Social Security number (SSN); or your names, address, and phone numbers. It's important to find out what happens to the personal information you and your children provide to companies, marketers, and government agencies. These organizations may use your information simply to process your order; to tell you about products, services, or promotions; *or to share with others.*

- You can start by going to Google or Yahoo and type *background check free* or *public records search free* then you can make a list of all the websites that could contain personal information about you or your family.
 - Here is a starting list:
 - www.whitepages.com
 - www.anywho.com
 - www.intelius.com
 - www.zabasearch.com
 - www.peoplefinders.com
 - www.ussearch.com

When you go to each of these websites there should be directions on the removal of your information from their database. You may find it in the "Terms of Use" section. You can also type a Google or Yahoo search with the name of the site and directions on removal of your information. Example-Type this in the search engine: *How do I remove information from www.whitepages.com?*