



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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November 16, 2005
Immediate Release:

Recorder Brown Lobbying For Identity Protection Measure

Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown will lobby lawmakers to limit the printing of social security numbers on documents filed with Ohio county recorder offices. During upcoming weeks Brown will be contacting and meeting with Ohio legislators urging passage of Sub House Bill 279 (Sub HB 279).

Brown described the bill as “the first step toward eliminating the possibility of wide spread identity theft via Ohio county courthouses.”

He added that the recording and archival industries are moving forward with technologies such as online document access and online electronic recording at a rate which information is being exchanged much quicker than lawmakers realize.

Brown warned, “that people should not only be worried about somebody stealing their credit card number from the trash but should also be worried about a person obtaining a social security number from a document being processed or viewed in India.”

Sub HB 279 prevents the preparer of the primary documents filed with the county recorder from including a social security number on the documents. The documents include record of deeds, record of mortgages, record of powers of attorney, record of plats, record of leases, and a record of living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care.

Brown said that without the law “all recorders can do when seeing a social security number is cross their fingers and hope it never gets obtained by the wrong people” but with the law recorders can actually reject the document for having a social security number.

During the upcoming weeks Brown will be lobbying Columbus lawmakers and meeting with legislative staff to pass Sub HB 279. He has already contacted all members of the Civil and Commercial Law Committee via mail.

House Bill 135 is currently assigned to the Civil and Commercial Law Committee in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Additional Questions: Craig Brown (330) 277-9509