

ASSESSOR / RECORDER

MARC C. TONNESEN
Assessor/Recorder



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSESSOR/RECORDER FIGHTS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Solano County, January 14, 2009

Solano County Assessor/Recorder Marc Tonnesen announces the implementation of a program that enables him to help the public combat identity theft.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. Thieves can open a credit card account in your name if they have your birth date and your Social Security Number (SSN). Thousands of dollars of merchandise can be charged to your name and ruin your good credit.

A recent law requires that documents presented by the public for recording not contain social security numbers. In addition Assessor/Recorder Tonnesen states that his office will truncate the first five digits of a social security number on all documents that may inadvertently contain SSNs.

The Recorder will also shorten all SSNs in documents recorded back to January 1980. Tonnesen estimates that his staff will review over 5,000,000 documents with over 23,000,000 pages in a multi-year effort to accomplish this task.

Members of the public who are concerned that a document recorded after January 1, 1980 contains a social security number are encouraged to contact the Assessor/Recorder's office. The law does not allow social security numbers to be truncated prior to 1980. If the document was recorded after January 1, 1998, the Recorder will truncate the SSN right away. A public record version of the official record will be created that is the only record available to the public. The official record is then held confidential.

Records prior to January 1998 require conversion from microfilm to an electronic copy before the Recorder is able to truncate the social security number. Marc Tonnesen says his office has a program to convert microfilmed records to electronic copies currently underway. As each year's records are converted beginning from 1997 and working backwards, each document will be searched and any social security numbers truncated.

If you have questions you may reach the Recorder by e-mail at Recorder@solanocounty.com. You may also visit the Assessor/Recorder Office 675 Texas St, #2700, Fairfield, Ca 94533. You may address mail to this address as well. Please call 707-784-6290 if you have any questions.

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