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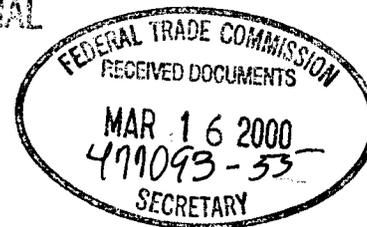
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March 13, 2000

Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
Room H-159
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

ORIGINAL



Re: Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act Privacy Rule; 16CFR Part 313-Comment

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my concern with the proposed regulations to implement Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999.

As an investigative attorney, specializing in locating heirs, beneficiaries, witnesses and other individuals within the context of legal proceedings, I am greatly fearful that attorneys, licensed private investigators and other investigative professionals would lose a valuable and irreplaceable means of locating individuals for trial preparation, estate probate and debt collection purposes if "non-public personal information" is defined so broadly as to include names and addresses of customers of financial institutions.

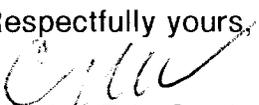
It is my impression that the clear intent of Congress was to provide an opportunity for customers of financial institutions to "opt-out" of sharing their personal financial information with non-affiliates of these institutions. The statute provides protection for financial information, but not mere names and addresses. After all, if all information available to financial institutions is defined as "non-public personal information", then what is "public information"? Congress seemed to be offering a distinction by describing financial information and providing an "opting-out" option for credit history, employment and financial assets. However, name, address and telephone numbers should not be classified as "non-public".

Investigative attorneys and private investigators play an important role in our civil and criminal justice systems. The information obtained regarding addresses and telephone numbers is essential in order for us to practice our professions and serve the public. This information is utilized to investigate embezzlement, insurance fraud, serve process, locate witnesses and debtors and expedite probate and estate administration.

As stalkers and scam artists seldom reside where their vehicles are registered (assuming that their vehicles are even registered in their own names), it is essential to be able to obtain accurate address information from financial institutions. If this information is deemed "non-public personal", only wrongdoers and criminals will benefit and the law abiding public will be penalized.

I urge you to define "non-public personal information" in the manner that Congress intended.

Respectfully yours,


Charles Eric Gordon