REFERENCE TITLE: records redaction; officials; officers

State of Arizona Senate Forty-eighth Legislature First Regular Session 2007

## **SB 1223**

Introduced by Senator Gray L

## AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 11-483, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2006, CHAPTER 299, SECTION 2; AMENDING SECTION 11-484, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2006, CHAPTER 299, SECTION 4; AMENDING SECTION 28-454, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO RECORDS REDACTION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 11-483, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by Laws 2006, chapter 299, section 2, is amended to read:

## 11-483. Records maintained by county recorder; confidentiality; definitions

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, in any county a peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment may request that the general public be prohibited from accessing the unique identifier and the recording date contained in indexes of recorded instruments maintained by the county recorder and may request the recorder to prohibit access to that person's residential address and telephone number contained in instruments or writings IN THE VOTING REGISTRATION RECORDS HELD BY THE COUNTY RECORDER AND IN INSTRUMENTS OR WRITINGS recorded by the county recorder and made available on the internet.
- B. A peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment may request this action by filing an affidavit that states all of the following on an application form developed by the administrative office of the courts in agreement with an association of counties, an organization of peace officers and the motor vehicle division of the department of transportation:
  - 1. The person's full legal name and residential address.
- 2. The full legal description and parcel number of the person's property.
- 3. The position the person currently holds and a description of the person's duties, except that a person who is a victim of domestic violence or stalking shall instead state that the person is a victim of domestic violence or stalking and shall attach documentation supporting the claim, including a true and correct copy of any of the following:
  - (a) Findings from a court of competent jurisdiction.
  - (b) Police reports.
  - (c) Medical records.
  - (d) Child protective services records.
  - (e) Domestic violence shelter records.
  - (f) School records.
- 4. The reasons the person reasonably believes that the person's life or safety or that of another person is in danger and that restricting access pursuant to this section will serve to reduce the danger.

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- 5. The document locator number and recording date of each instrument for which the person requests access restriction pursuant to this section.
- 6. A copy of pages from each instrument that includes the document locator number and the person's full legal name and residential address or full legal name and telephone number.
- C. If a peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment is also requesting pursuant to section 11-484 that the general public be prohibited from accessing records maintained by the county assessor and county treasurer, the peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment may combine the request pursuant to subsection B of this section with the request pursuant to section 11-484 by filing one affidavit. The affidavit and subsequent action by the appropriate authorities shall meet all of the requirements of this section and section 11-484.
- D. The affidavit shall be filed with the presiding judge of the superior court in the county in which the affiant resides. To prevent a multiplicity of filings, a peace officer, public defender, or prosecutor, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER shall deliver the affidavit to the peace officer's commanding officer, or to the head of the prosecuting, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, DETENTION or public defender agency, as applicable, or that person's designee, who shall file the affidavits at one time. In the absence of an affidavit that contains a request for immediate action and that is supported by facts justifying an earlier presentation, the commanding officer, or the head of the prosecuting, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, DETENTION or public defender agency, as applicable, or that person's designee, shall not file affidavits more often than quarterly.
- E. On receipt of an affidavit or affidavits, the presiding judge of the superior court shall file with the clerk of the superior court a petition on behalf of all requesting affiants. Each affidavit presented shall be attached to the petition. In the absence of an affidavit that contains a request for immediate action and that is supported by facts justifying an earlier consideration, the presiding judge may accumulate affidavits and file a petition at the end of each quarter.
- F. The presiding judge of the superior court shall review the petition and each attached affidavit to determine whether the action requested by each affiant should be granted. If the presiding judge of the superior court concludes that the action requested by the affiant will reduce a danger to

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the life or safety of the affiant or another person, the presiding judge of the superior court shall order that the recorder prohibit access for five years to the affiant's residential address and telephone number contained in instruments or writings recorded by the county recorder and made available on the internet. If the presiding judge of the superior court concludes that the affiant or another person is in actual danger of physical harm from a person or persons with whom the affiant has had official dealings and that action pursuant to this section will reduce a danger to the life or safety of the affiant or another person, the presiding judge of the superior court shall order that the general public be prohibited for five years from accessing the unique identifier and the recording date contained in indexes of recorded instruments maintained by the county recorder and identified pursuant to subsection B of this section.

- G. On motion to the court, if the presiding judge of the superior court concludes that an instrument or writing recorded by the county recorder has been redacted or sealed in error, that the original affiant no longer lives at the address listed in the original affidavit, that the cause for the original affidavit no longer exists or that temporary access to the instrument or writing is needed, the presiding judge may temporarily stay or permanently vacate all or part of the court order prohibiting public access to the recorded instrument or writing.
- H. On entry of the court order, the clerk of the superior court shall file the court order and a copy of the affidavit required by subsection B of this section with the county recorder. No more than ten days after the date on which the county recorder receives the court order, the county recorder shall restrict access to the information as required by subsection F of this section.
- I. If the court denies an affiant's request pursuant to this section, the affiant may request a court hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by the court in the county where the petition was filed.
- J. The recorder shall remove the restrictions on all records restricted pursuant to this section by January 5 in the year after the court order expires.
- K. J. To include subsequent recordings in the court order, the peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment shall present to the county recorder at the time of recordation a certified copy of the court order OR SHALL PROVIDE TO THE COUNTY RECORDER THE RECORDING NUMBER OF THE COURT ORDER. The recorder shall ensure that public access shall be restricted pursuant to subsection A of this section.

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- L. K. This section shall not be interpreted to restrict access to public records for the purposes of perfecting a lien pursuant to title 12, chapter 9, article 2.
- M. L. This section does not prohibit access to the records of the county recorder by parties to the instrument, a title insurer, a title insurance agent or an escrow agent licensed by the department of insurance or the department of banking.
  - N. For the purposes of this section:
  - 1. "Commissioner" means a commissioner of the superior court.
- 2. "Indexes" means only those indexes that are maintained by and located in the office of the county recorder, that are accessed electronically and that contain information beginning from and after January 1, 1987.
- 3. "Judge" means a judge of the United States district court, the United States court of appeals, the United States magistrate court, the United States bankruptcy court, the Arizona court of appeals, the superior court or a municipal court.
- 4. "Justice" means a justice of the United States or Arizona supreme court or a justice of the peace.
- 5. "Peace officer" means any person vested by law, or formerly vested by law, with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests.
- 6. "Prosecutor" means a county attorney, a municipal prosecutor, the attorney general or a United States attorney and includes an assistant or deputy United States attorney, county attorney, municipal prosecutor or attorney general.
- 7. "Public defender" means a federal public defender, county public defender, county legal defender or county contract indigent defense counsel and includes an assistant or deputy federal public defender, county public defender or county legal defender.
- 8. "Stalking" means the course of conduct prescribed in section 13-2923.
- 9. "Victim of domestic violence" means a person who is a victim of an offense defined in section 13-3601.
- Sec. 2. Section 11-484, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by Laws 2006, chapter 299, section 4, is amended to read:

## 11-484. Records maintained by county assessor and county treasurer; redaction; definitions

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, in any county a peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment may request that the general public be prohibited from accessing that person's residential address and

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telephone number that are contained in instruments, writings and information maintained by the county assessor and the county treasurer.

- B. A peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment may request this action by filing an affidavit that states all of the following on an application form developed by the administrative office of the courts in agreement with an association of counties, an organization of peace officers and the motor vehicle division of the department of transportation:
  - 1. The person's full legal name and residential address.
- 2. The full legal description and parcel number of the person's property.
- 3. The position the person currently holds and a description of the person's duties, except that a person who is a victim of domestic violence or stalking shall state that the person is a victim of domestic violence or stalking and shall attach documentation supporting the claim, including a true and correct copy of any of the following:
  - (a) Findings from a court of competent jurisdiction.
  - (b) Police reports.
  - (c) Medical records.
  - (d) Child protective services records.
  - (e) Domestic violence shelter records.
  - (f) School records.
- 4. The reasons the person reasonably believes that the person's life or safety or that of another person is in danger and that redacting the residential address and telephone number will serve to reduce the danger.
- C. If a peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment is also requesting pursuant to section 11-483 that the general public be prohibited from accessing records maintained by the county recorder, the peace officer, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, victim of domestic violence or stalking or person who is protected under an order of protection or injunction against harassment may combine the request pursuant to subsection B of this section with the request pursuant to section 11-483 by filing one affidavit. The affidavit and subsequent action by the appropriate authorities shall meet all of the requirements of this section and section 11-483.

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- D. The affidavit shall be filed with the presiding judge of the superior court in the county in which the affiant resides. To prevent a multiplicity of filings, a peace officer, public defender, or prosecutor, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER shall deliver the affidavit to the peace officer's commanding officer, or to the head of the prosecuting, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, DETENTION or public defender agency, as applicable, or that person's designee, who shall file the affidavits at one time. In the absence of an affidavit that contains a request for immediate action and that is supported by facts justifying an earlier presentation, the commanding officer, or the head of the prosecuting, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, DETENTION or public defender agency, as applicable, or that person's designee, shall not file affidavits more often than quarterly.
- E. On receipt of an affidavit or affidavits, the presiding judge of the superior court shall file with the clerk of the superior court a petition on behalf of all requesting affiants. Each affidavit presented shall be attached to the petition. In the absence of an affidavit that contains a request for immediate action and that is supported by facts justifying an earlier consideration, the presiding judge may accumulate affidavits and file a petition at the end of each quarter.
- F. The presiding judge of the superior court shall review the petition and each attached affidavit to determine whether the action requested by each affiant should be granted. If the presiding judge of the superior court concludes that the action requested by the affiant will reduce a danger to the life or safety of the affiant or another person, the presiding judge of the superior court shall order the redaction of the affiant's residential address and telephone number that are contained in instruments, writings and information maintained by the county assessor and the county treasurer. The redaction shall be in effect for five years.
- G. On motion to the court, if the presiding judge of the superior court concludes that an instrument or writing maintained by the county assessor or the county treasurer has been redacted or sealed in error, that the original affiant no longer lives at the address listed in the original affidavit, that the cause for the original affidavit no longer exists or that temporary access to the instrument or writing is needed, the presiding judge may temporarily stay or permanently vacate all or part of the court order prohibiting public access to the instrument or writing.
- H. On entry of the court order, the clerk of the superior court shall file the court order and a copy of the affidavit required by subsection B of this section with the county assessor and the county treasurer. No more than ten days after the date on which the county assessor and the county treasurer receive the court order, the county assessor and the county treasurer shall restrict access to the information as required by subsection F of this section.

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- I. If the court denies an affiant's request pursuant to this section, the affiant may request a court hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by the court in the county where the petition was filed.
- J. The county assessor and the county treasurer shall remove the restrictions on all records that are redacted pursuant to this section by January 5 in the year after the court order expires.
  - ₭. J. For the purposes of this section:
  - 1. "Commissioner" means a commissioner of the superior court.
- 2. "Judge" means a judge of the United States district court, the United States court of appeals, the United States magistrate court, the United States bankruptcy court, the Arizona court of appeals, the superior court or a municipal court.
- 3. "Justice" means a justice of the United States or Arizona supreme court or a justice of the peace.
- 4. "Peace officer" means any person vested by law, or formerly vested by law, with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests.
- 5. "Prosecutor" means a county attorney, a municipal prosecutor, the attorney general or a United States attorney and includes an assistant or deputy United States attorney, county attorney, municipal prosecutor or attorney general.
- 6. "Public defender" means a federal public defender, county public defender, county legal defender or county contract indigent defense counsel and includes an assistant or deputy federal public defender, county public defender or county legal defender.
- 7. "Stalking" means the course of conduct prescribed in section 13-2923.
- 8. "Victim of domestic violence" means a person who is a victim of an offense defined in section 13-3601.
  - Sec. 3. Section 28-454, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 28-454. Records maintained by department of transportation: redaction: definitions
- A. Notwithstanding sections 28-447 and 28-455, a peace officer, prosecutor, or code enforcement officer, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR STALKING OR PERSON WHO IS PROTECTED UNDER AN ORDER OF PROTECTION OR INJUNCTION AGAINST HARASSMENT may request that persons be prohibited from accessing the peace officer's, prosecutor's or code enforcement officer's PERSON'S residential address and telephone number contained in any record maintained by the department.
- B. A peace officer, prosecutor, or code enforcement officer, ELECTED OFFICIAL, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR STALKING OR PERSON WHO IS PROTECTED UNDER AN ORDER OF PROTECTION OR INJUNCTION AGAINST HARASSMENT may request this action by filing an

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affidavit that states all of the following on an application form developed by the administrative office of the courts in agreement with an association of counties, an organization of peace officers and the department:

- 1. The peace officer's, prosecutor's or code enforcement officer's PERSON'S full legal name and residential address.
- 2. The position the peace officer, prosecutor or code enforcement officer PERSON currently holds and a description of the peace officer's, prosecutor's or code enforcement officer's PERSON'S duties, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON WHO IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR STALKING SHALL STATE THAT THE PERSON IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR STALKING AND SHALL ATTACH DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING THE CLAIM, INCLUDING A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
  - (a) FINDINGS FROM A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION.
  - (b) POLICE REPORTS.
  - (c) MEDICAL RECORDS.
  - (d) CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES RECORDS.
  - (e) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER RECORDS.
  - (f) SCHOOL RECORDS.
- 3. The reasons the peace officer, prosecutor or code enforcement officer PERSON reasonably believes that the peace officer's, prosecutor's or code enforcement officer's PERSON'S life or safety or that of another person is in danger and that redacting the residential address and telephone number from the department's public records will serve to reduce the danger.
- C. The affidavit shall be filed with the presiding judge of the superior court in the county in which the affiant resides. To prevent a multiplicity of filings, a peace officer, prosecutor, or code enforcement officer, CORRECTIONS OR DETENTION OFFICER OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OR COURT SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER shall deliver the affidavit to the peace officer's commanding officer, or to the head of the prosecuting LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, DETENTION or code enforcement agency, as applicable, or that person's designee, who shall file the affidavits at one time. In the absence of an affidavit that contains a request for immediate action and that is supported by facts justifying an earlier presentation, the commanding officer, or the head of the prosecuting, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, DETENTION or code enforcement agency, as applicable, or that person's designee, shall not file affidavits more often than quarterly.
- D. On receipt of an affidavit or affidavits, the presiding judge of the superior court shall cause to be filed with the clerk of the superior court a petition on behalf of all requesting peace officers, prosecutors and code enforcement officers AFFIANTS. Each affidavit presented shall be attached to the petition. In the absence of an affidavit that contains a request for immediate action and that is supported by facts justifying an earlier consideration, the presiding judge may accumulate affidavits and file a petition at the end of each quarter.

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- E. The presiding judge of the superior court shall review the petition and each attached affidavit to determine whether the action requested by each peace officer, prosecutor and code enforcement officer AFFIANT should be granted. The presiding judge of the superior court shall order the redaction of the residence address and telephone number from the public records maintained by the department if the judge concludes that this action will reduce a danger to the life or safety of the affiant or another person.
- F. On entry of the court order, the clerk of the superior court shall file the court order with the department. No more than one hundred fifty days after the date the department receives the court order, the department shall redact the residence addresses and telephone numbers of the peace officers, prosecutors and code enforcement officers AFFIANTS listed in the court order from the public records of the department. The residence addresses and telephone numbers shall not be disclosed and are not part of a public record.
- G. If the court denies an affiant's request pursuant to this section, the affiant may request a court hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by the court in the county where the petition was filed.
- H. On motion to the court, if the presiding judge of the superior court concludes that a residential address or telephone number has been sealed in error or that the cause for the original affidavit no longer exists, the presiding judge may vacate the court order prohibiting public access to the residential address or telephone number.
- I. Notwithstanding sections 28-447 and 28-455, the department shall not release a photograph of a peace officer if the peace officer has made a request as prescribed in this section that persons be prohibited from accessing the peace officer's residential address and telephone number in any record maintained by the department.
- J. This section does not prohibit the use of a peace officer's photograph that is either:
- 1. Used by a law enforcement agency to assist a person who has a complaint against an officer to identify the officer.
  - 2. Obtained from a source other than the department.
  - K. For the purposes of this section:
- 1. "Code enforcement officer" means a person who is employed by a state or local government and whose duties include performing field inspections of buildings, structures or property to ensure compliance with and enforce national, state and local laws, ordinances and codes.
- 2. "Prosecutor" means a county attorney, a municipal prosecutor or the attorney general and includes an assistant or deputy county attorney, municipal prosecutor or attorney general.
- 3. "STALKING" MEANS THE COURSE OF CONDUCT PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 13-2923.
- 4. "VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS A VICTIM OF AN OFFENSE DEFINED IN SECTION 13-3601.

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