

Department of Justice's, Justice Information Sharing webpage  
<https://it.ojp.gov/PrivacyLiberty/authorities/statutes/1279>

Conditions of Disclosure to Third Parties or the “No Disclosure without Consent Rule”

“No agency shall disclose any record which is contained in a system of records by any means of communication to any person, or to another agency, except pursuant to a written request by, or with the prior written consent of, the individual to whom the record pertains [subject to 12 exceptions].” 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b).

The 12 exceptions are:

1. To employees of the agency which maintains the records with a legitimate need-to-know;
2. When the FOIA requires release;
3. For a “routine use” identified in the System of Records Notice (SORN) that has been published in the Federal Register;
4. To the Census Bureau for purpose of conducting the census;
5. For statistical research and reporting in which individuals will not be identified;
6. To the National Archives and Records Administration for historical preservation if the Archivist determines the record has historical value;
7. To civil or criminal law enforcement under U.S. control upon written request;
8. For compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of the requestor;
9. To either House of Congress;
10. To the Comptroller General for use by the Government Accountability Office;
11. Pursuant to a court order (a subpoena signed by a judge); or
12. To a consumer reporting agency in accordance with the Debt Collection Act.