

West Virginia Executive Branch Privacy Tip of the Week

Periodically, the Privacy Office may issue tips for the purpose of assisting you in making informed decisions in your “away from work” life. The following tip is for that purpose.

Social Networking Tip # 1

Question:

So my daughter has been trying to talk me into getting a Facebook Page (yeah, imagine that)! Apparently I’m way uncool – I have no Facebook Page, no Twitter account, etc. Clearly, I’m boring because I don’t post pictures of my dinner, dessert and strange people I see at the mall! Anyway, I need some help getting started; I don’t want to expose information that could be used to steal my identity. Being the privacy gurus, I thought maybe you could you provide me with a few tips.

Answer:

Sure, we’ll be happy to provide you with a few tips. We’re going to send you a couple of tips today, followed by a few more over the next several weeks. If you find these tips helpful, let us know and we’ll keep ‘em coming!

- Be selective about who you accept as a friend on a social network. Identity thieves might create fake profiles in order to get information from you.
- Assume that everything you put on a social networking site is permanent. Even if you can delete your account, anyone on the Internet can easily print photos or text or save images and videos to a computer.
- Use caution when you click links that you receive in messages from your friends on your social website. Treat links in messages on these sites as you would links in email messages.

Stay safe online and stay tuned for more tips!