

Purging your personal information from public records

Did you know that with just your last name, people can discover an amazing amount of personal information about you from public websites? For example, if you own property in Johnson County, someone can log on to the county's [website](#), run a search based on your last name, and discover various details about you and your family such as your full name, your spouse's name if he or she is listed as a co-owner, your home address, the value of and pictures of your house, information about where your children would attend public schools, who provides your utilities, where you vote and the nearest fire station, fire hydrant, library, post office branch, park, and recreation trail. Are you comfortable with potential criminals having access to that much information about you? If you are, no further action on your part is required.

If you are not comfortable with that much personal information being readily available to anyone who seeks it, you can have it purged from the county's website upon request. One of the newer exceptions to the Kansas Open Records Act states:

Certain records not required to be open; separation of open and closed information required; statistics and records over 70 years old open.

(a) Except to the extent disclosure is otherwise required by law, a public agency shall not be required to disclose:

...

(51) Records of a public agency on a public website which are searchable by a keyword search and identify the home address or home ownership of a law enforcement officer as defined in K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21- 5111, and amendments thereto, . . . Such individual officer shall file with the custodian of such record a request to have such officer's identifying information restricted from public access on such public website. Within 10 business days of receipt of such requests, the public agency shall restrict such officer's identifying information from such public access. Such restriction shall expire after five years and such officer may file with the custodian of such record a new request for restriction at any time.

K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 45-221(a)(51).

If you desire to have such information purged from Johnson County's website, fill out the attached request and forward it to the county treasurer. Please note the request expires after five years, so you either need to renew it every five years, or file a new request if you move. If you live or own property in some state other than Kansas, you will have to check and see if that state has a similar provision in their open records law. Please advise if you have any questions.

Date: _____

Johnson County Treasurer
111 S Cherry St
Olathe, KS 66061

Re: Request to have identifying information restricted from public access

I am a police officer for the City of Overland Park, Kansas, and own property
located at: _____.

Pursuant to K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 45-221(a)(51), and amendments thereto, I
request to have my identifying information restricted from public access on any
joco.gov public website for five years from the date set out above. Please advise if
you have any questions

Sincerely,
