

TIP OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2009

WHAT'S DATA PROTECTION ALL ABOUT?

The Data Protection (Privacy of Personal Information) Act, 2003 (DPA) is about protecting your personal information.

The word "PRIVACY" means different things to different people. Your idea of privacy is likely to be different from the ideas of your family and friends. Although there are other types of privacy (territorial, physical or bodily communication) this office is concerned with privacy issues which involve the protection of a person's personal information.

What is Personal Information?

Personal information is information that identifies you or could identify you. There are some obvious examples of personal information, such as your name or address. Personal information can also include medical records, bank account details, photos, videos, and even information about what you like, your opinions and where you work – basically, any information where you are reasonably identifiable.

Information does not have to include your name to be personal information. For example, in some cases, your date of birth and postal address may be enough to identify you. Many people can even be identified through voice recognition!

Another general definition of personal information refers to "... information or an opinion (including information or an opinion forming part of a database), whether true or not, and whether recorded in a material form or not, about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the information or opinion."

What Privacy is not

The protection of your personal information (privacy) is different to other related concepts such as:

- Confidentiality
- Secrecy
- Freedom of information

However, there can be some cross-over.

Feel free to email us at dataprotection@bahamas.gov.bs