

Data Protection Tip of the Month - March 2009

The Golden Rule

As children we were all taught the golden rule: “do unto others as you would have them do unto you!”

In the world of data protection this is good practical advice if you are collecting personal information about other people. Before collecting personal information ask yourself the following questions:-

- Would they know who is collecting the information?
- Would they understand why you're collecting it?
- Would they understand the implications of this?
- Would they be likely to object or complain?

Remember that if you mistreat personal information, you are also mistreating the people it is about and will probably be in breach of the Data Protection (Privacy of Personal Information) Act, 2003 (DPA).

The DPA was enacted to protect the privacy rights of individuals in relation to the processing of personal information. Broadly speaking these rights are summarized in the eight core principles of data protection.

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