

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences

CALIFORNIA LAW REGARDING THE STORAGE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ON COMPUTERS

SB 1386 is California legislation regarding storage of personal information on computers that could potentially be used for identity theft. Personal information is defined to mean:

First name OR first initial and last name in combination with one or more of the following:

- Social security number,
- Or driver's license number,
- Or California identification number,
- Or financial account number, credit or debit card number, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account,
- Or medical information,
- Or health insurance information.

This list comes from the guidelines posted by the Office of Information Technology of our campus:

<http://www.oit.ucsb.edu/committees/ITPG/sb1386.asp>

Since our department (and campus) networks are scanned for vulnerable computers day and night, and all computers on our network are potentially vulnerable despite best efforts to make them as secure as possible, it is critical that you do not store this type of information on your computer(s) in any way, shape, or form. This includes excel spreadsheets, word documents, but also scanned personal checks and reimbursement forms that might have any combination of the above. If a computer is hacked it puts the people whose information is stored on its hard drive at risk for identity theft and the department and University are responsible for notification and potential costs including damages from individuals whose identities were hacked.

If you have further questions regarding this kind of information and policy regarding the storage of information, please contact our IT Department at computer-support@psych.ucsb.edu

February 2012