



Texas Department of Transportation

VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION DIVISION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78779-0001 • (512) 465-7611

November 30, 2001

Registration and Title Bulletin # 161-01

TO: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

SUBJECT: Monitoring of Complaints of Driver's Privacy Protection Act Violations

PURPOSE

To advise that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) continues to closely monitor complaints relating to violations of the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act (DPPA) and the Texas Motor Vehicle Records Disclosure Act (MVRDA).

DETAILS

TxDOT has received many complaints regarding the misuse of privacy-protected personal information (names and addresses) obtained from the department's motor vehicle records. Some of the complaints are against persons/companies who contract with the department to obtain motor vehicle record information, or third parties that, either directly or indirectly, obtain privacy-protected information from a contracted purchaser.

The department insists on strict compliance with the provisions of federal and state law, as well as the provisions of the executed contract, by all contracted purchasers, including their third party purchasers.

VTR ACTIONS

All complaints are carefully reviewed by the department to determine whether the violator is a contracted purchaser, including a third party purchaser that obtains privacy-protected information from a contracted purchaser. If the violator is found to be a contracted purchaser or third party purchaser, and the complaint evidences a violation of the DPPA, MVRDA, or the terms of their contract, the appropriate action to be taken is then determined. A violation of the DPPA, MVRDA, or the terms of their contract can be cause for immediate contract termination.

Several contracts have been terminated recently for such violations. As a result, on October 29, 2001, an advisory letter was distributed to all contracted purchasers to remind them of the restrictions outlined in their contract and of the severity of violations of the federal and state laws, or the terms of the contract. A copy of that letter is attached for your reference.

VTR CONTACTS

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact your local Vehicle Titles and Registration Division Regional Office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Dike, Director
Vehicle Titles and
Registration Division

JLD:jsk

Attachment

cc: VTR Administration