

*Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-18-2107*

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Title 47 Commercial Instruments And Transactions  
Chapter 18 Consumer Protection  
Part 21 Identity Theft Deterrence

Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-18-2107 (2017)

**47-18-2107. Release of personal consumer information.**

**(a)** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

**(1)** "Breach of the security of the system" means unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that materially compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of personal information maintained by the information holder. Good faith acquisition of personal information by an employee or agent of the information holder for the purposes of the information holder is not a breach of the security of the system; provided, that the personal information is not used or subject to further unauthorized disclosure;

**(2)** "Information holder" means any person or business that conducts business in this state, or any agency of the state of Tennessee or any of its political subdivisions, that owns or licenses computerized data that includes personal information;

**(3) (A)** "Personal information" means an individual's first name or first initial and last name, in combination with any one (1) or more of the following data elements, when either the name or the data elements are not encrypted:

**(i)** Social security number;

**(ii)** Driver license number; or

**(iii)** 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; and

**(B)** "Personal information" does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state, or local government records; and

**(4)** "Unauthorized person" includes an employee of the information holder who is discovered by the information holder to have obtained personal information and intentionally used it for an unlawful purpose.

**(b)** Any information holder shall disclose any breach of the security of the system, following discovery or notification of the breach in the security of the data, to any resident of Tennessee whose personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person. The disclosure shall be made immediately, but no later than forty-five (45) days from the discovery or notification of the breach, unless a longer period of time is required due to the legitimate needs of law enforcement, as provided in subsection (d).

**(c)** Any information holder that maintains computerized data that includes personal information that the information holder does not own shall notify the owner or licensee of the information of any breach of the security of the data immediately, but no later than forty-five (45) days from when the breach became known by the information holder, if the personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person.

**(d)** The notification required by this section may be delayed if a law enforcement agency determines that the notification will impede a criminal investigation. The notification required by this section shall be made no later than forty-five (45) days after the law enforcement agency determines that it will not compromise the investigation.

**(e)** For purposes of this section, notice may be provided by one (1) of the following methods:

**(1)** Written notice;

**(2)** Electronic notice, if the notice provided is consistent with the provisions regarding electronic records and signatures set forth in 15 U.S.C. § 7001; or

**(3)** Substitute notice, if the information holder demonstrates that the cost of providing notice would exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), or that the affected class of subject persons to be notified exceeds five hundred thousand (500,000), or the information holder does not have sufficient contact information. Substitute notice shall consist of all of the following:

**(A)** E-mail notice, when the information holder has an e-mail address for the subject persons;

**(B)** Conspicuous posting of the notice on the information holder's Internet web site page, if the information holder maintains such web site page; and

**(C)** Notification to major statewide media.

**(f)** Notwithstanding subsection (e), an information holder that maintains its own notification procedures as part of an information security policy for the treatment of personal information, and is otherwise consistent with the timing requirements of this section, shall be deemed to be in compliance with the notification requirements of this section, if it notifies subject persons in accordance with its policies in the event of a breach of security of the system.

**(g)** In the event that a person discovers circumstances requiring notification pursuant to this section of more than one thousand (1,000) persons at one time, the person shall also notify, without unreasonable delay, all consumer reporting agencies and credit bureaus that compile and maintain files on consumers on a nationwide basis, as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a, of the timing, distribution and content of the notices.

**(h)** Any customer of an information holder who is a person or business entity, but who is not an agency of the state or any political subdivision of the state, and who is injured by a violation of this section, may institute a civil action to recover damages and to enjoin the person or business entity

from further action in violation of this section. The rights and remedies available under this section are cumulative to each other and to any other rights and remedies available under law.

**(i)** This section shall not apply to any person or entity that is subject to:

**(1)** Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (Pub. L. No. 106-102); or

**(2)** The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. § 1320d), as expanded by the Health Information Technology for Clinical and Economic Health Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 300jj et seq., and 42 U.S.C. §§ 17921 et seq.).

**HISTORY:** Acts 2005, ch. 473, § 1; 2016, ch. 692, §§ 1-4.

SENATE BILL 547

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47,  
relative to release of personal information.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 47-18-2107, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Breach of system security" means acquisition of computerized data by an unauthorized person that materially compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of personal information maintained by the information holder. The good faith acquisition of personal information by an employee or agent of the information holder for the purposes of the information holder is not a breach of system security, if the personal information is not used or subject to further unauthorized disclosure;

(2) "Encryption" means rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to an unauthorized person through a security technology or methodology generally accepted in the field of information security without the use of a decryption process or key;

(3) "Information holder" means any person or business that conducts business in this state, or any agency of this state or any of its political subdivisions, that owns or licenses computerized personal information of residents of this state;

(4) "Personal information":

(A) Means an individual's first name or first initial and last name, in combination with any one (1) or more of the following data elements:

(i) Social security number;

(ii) Driver license number; or

(iii) 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; and

(B) Does not include:

(i) Information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state, or local government records;

(ii) Information that has been encrypted in accordance with the current version of the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 if the encryption key has not been acquired by an unauthorized person; or

(iii) Information that has been redacted, or otherwise made unusable; and

(5) "Unauthorized person" includes an employee of the information holder who is discovered by the information holder to have obtained personal information with the intent to use it for an unlawful purpose.

(b) Following discovery or notification of a breach of system security by an information holder, the information holder shall disclose the breach of system security to any resident of this state whose personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person. The disclosure must be made no later than forty-five (45) days from the discovery or notification of the breach of system security, unless a longer period of time is required due to the legitimate needs of law enforcement, as provided in subsection (d).

(c) Any information holder that maintains computerized data that includes personal information that the information holder does not own shall notify the owner or licensee of the information of any breach of system security no later than forty-five (45) days from the discovery or notification of the breach, if the personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person.

(d) The notification required by this section may be delayed if a law enforcement agency determines that the notification will impede a criminal investigation. If the notification is delayed, it must be made no later than forty-five (45) days after the law enforcement agency determines that notification will not compromise the investigation.

(e) For purposes of this section, notice may be provided by one (1) of the following methods:

(1) Written notice;

(2) Electronic notice, if the notice provided is consistent with the provisions regarding electronic records and signatures set forth in 15 U.S.C. § 7001 or if the information holder's primary method of communication with the resident of this state has been by electronic means; or

(3) Substitute notice, if the information holder demonstrates that the cost of providing notice would exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), that the affected class of subject persons to be notified exceeds five hundred thousand (500,000) persons, or the information holder does not have sufficient contact information and the notice consists of all of the following:

(A) Email notice, when the information holder has an email address for the subject persons;

(B) Conspicuous posting of the notice on the information holder's website, if the information holder maintains a website page; and

(C) Notification to major statewide media.

(f) Notwithstanding subsection (e), if an information holder maintains its own notification procedures as part of an information security policy for the treatment of personal information and if the policy is otherwise consistent with the timing requirements of this section, the information holder is in compliance with the notification requirements of this section, as long as the information holder notifies subject persons in accordance with its policies in the event of a breach of system security.

(g) If an information holder discovers circumstances requiring notification pursuant to this section of more than one thousand (1,000) persons at one (1) time, the information holder must also notify, without unreasonable delay, all consumer reporting agencies, as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a, and credit bureaus that compile and maintain files on consumers on a nationwide basis, of the timing, distribution, and content of the notices.

(h) Any customer of an information holder who is a person or business entity, but who is not an agency of this state or any political subdivision of this state, and who is injured by a violation of this section, may institute a civil action to recover damages and to enjoin the information holder from further action in violation of this section. The rights and remedies available under this section are cumulative to each other and to any other rights and remedies available under law.

(i) This section does not apply to any information holder that is subject to:

(1) Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (Pub. L. No. 106-102);

or

(2) The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.), as expanded by the Health Information Technology for

Clinical and Economic Health Act (42 U.S.C. § 300jj et seq., and 42 U.S.C. § 17921 et seq.).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.