

**CAUTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN ON CENSUS**

The 2010 U.S. Census is under way, and U.S. Census workers have begun the process of verifying households in the United States. By the conclusion of the Census, every person in the United States will have been counted, and information about each person living at each address will have been gathered. This information includes the name, age, gender, race and other relevant data.

While most people are cautious and will not give out personal information over the telephone or to visitors, the Census presents an opportunity for scammers who realize that citizens are more willing to share personal data during this process and have an opportunity to pose as a government employee and solicit sensitive financial information, leading to fraud or identity theft. Households are required by law to respond to the Census Bureau's request for information. The Census Bureau will be collecting the information by mail, telephone or a visit by a U.S. Census worker. The Census Bureau will NOT make contact via email, so do not respond to any emails requesting Census Bureau information. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that purports to be from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Better Business Bureau is offering the following advice on how to tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist.

1. If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. You should ask to see their identification and their badge before you answer any questions. You should never invite anyone you do not know into your home.
2. Census workers are currently only making home visits to verify address information. Your Social Security number, credit card or banking information should not be given to anyone, even if they say the information is needed for the U.S. Census. The Census Bureau may be asking for basic financial information, such as a salary range, but the workers will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers, nor will employees be soliciting donations. Anyone asking for this type of information is NOT with the Census Bureau.
3. The Census Bureau has decided not to work with Acorn on gathering this information, so no Acorn worker should contact you saying they are with the Census Bureau.
4. No matter what the Census worker asks you, you really only need to tell them how many people live at your address.

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We appreciate your consideration of this law firm. If you would like further information regarding any of the items discussed in this Estate Planning Bulletin, or if we can assist you with any other aspect of your estate planning, please contact our office at 740-363-1313.

We are always grateful for your trust in recommending us to others. A referral from you and your continued business are the highest compliments we could ever receive.

**NOTICE**

This bulletin provides general information and is not legal advice. Please contact us if you need legal advice.