It’s Census Time!

You are not exempt from responding to the 2020 Census because you are enrolled in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). If you don’t respond to the census request for information, a census worker will arrive at your home to gather information. ACP recommends that you complete and return the census survey promptly.

The 2020 Census is strictly about statistical information. It is not about who is living at the residence. Providing the number of residents, their sex, and age is required. Providing the names of the people who reside at a residence is not. You don’t have to disclose your name, but you do need to answer the other questions on the survey form.

Timeline
You will receive a survey form from the U.S. Census Bureau at your residence by April 1.

Privacy laws
If you forget the instructions and give your name, census data is confidential. Census Bureau workers take a lifetime oath to protect people’s personal information. There are strict penalties in place for unlawful disclosures. For more information search for Title 13 of the U.S. Code at www.census.gov/

How to respond to your survey
You will have three options for responding to the 2020 Census: by mail, by phone, or online.

On the census form there will be a code specific to your residence. If you choose to respond online, you will be required to enter the code. That lets the Census Bureau know that you have submitted your response.

Remember, even if you choose to submit your response online, you don’t have to disclose your name. You may receive several reminders. Only one response is required. If you get a reminder and you have already responded, you can disregard the reminder.

Here is an example of what you should put on the survey form if the household consists of a mother and a son and daughter who are minors, instead of names:

- Adult female 1 age — 32 years old
- Male child 1 age — 12 years old
- Female child 1 age — 10 years old

ACP has included census information on page 31 of the ACP Key Information Handbook. The handbook that was mailed to you. Call our office if you need another copy.
What exactly is a Public Record?

What are public records? Public records are those documents created by all government agencies that can be made available to the general public.

Some examples of public records are: real estate records, lien filings, court dockets, court decisions, lawsuit information, birth and death records, marriage licenses, voter registration lists, driver licenses, business and professional licenses, college alumni databases, corporations and charities, criminal history, tax assessor property records, and more.

Many companies access public records databases and use them to locate people. A quick search of the internet will give you a huge list of organizations who make money finding people through government databases. Use your ACP address as much as possible! Keep in mind that the Federal Government and private entities are not required by law to accept and use the ACP address. It is always worth asking.

A move in your future?

Please remember to notify the ACP at least two (2) days prior to your move so that we can get your mail to you. We must have your address change in writing or by fax. This is for your safety. We don’t know who is on the other end of the phone when you call.

We have added a Change of Address Form to our website at: www.sos.wa.gov/acp under FAQ’s/Forms.

If your mail gets returned to us and we can’t get in touch with you, we must cancel your participation in the ACP. Make sure the ACP has your current phone number and your voicemail is set up so we can contact you if there are any problems.

Updating your driver’s license or ID card

As a participant in the ACP, you may now direct the Department of Licensing (DOL) to update your Driver’s License, ID, and/or vehicle records to your ACP address by completing a form.

When the ACP receives your completed form, we will forward it to the DOL, they will then update your information within 30 days of receipt.

There is no cost to update your address with the DOL. There is a cost any time you want a new driver’s license, ID card, title, or registration. To obtain a new driver’s license, ID card, title, or registration with the ACP address on it, you must still go in to a DOL office with your ACP Authorization card and pay the fees.

If you don’t want to update your address with DOL, you don’t have to. Remember, the more you use your ACP address, the more difficult it is to find you.

If you have already updated your address at the DOL with the ACP PO Box 257, Olympia, WA address, no further action is required.
Same Day Voter Registration
Washington state now has same day voter registration. You can register to vote and receive a ballot at your election office until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

You will need to take your ACP authorization card with you to your auditor and/or elections office. Ask for the ACP Authorized Personnel.

Keep in mind you will not be able to track your ballot online.

If there is a question about your ballot the county will reach out to you by phone or by mail. Be sure to mail your corrected ballot promptly.

Pre-Voting Registration for 16- and 17-year olds
All students over the age of 16 may sign up to be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18. Washington state has Temperance & Good Citizenship Day, which allows them to sign up during school hours. To be eligible to sign up, the student will need to have a Washington state ID card or driver’s license, or fill out a paper form using the last four (4) digits of their social security number.

If your teen fills out a form or signs up online, their address will become public record, and information will be placed on the internet when they are 18.

The ACP recommends that you have a conversation with your teen about registering to vote. We advise all people enrolled in the ACP to not register to vote online, or fill out a regular voter registration form.

We want everyone to vote, and we want everyone in the ACP to do it safely.

We have you covered!
Before your child turns 18, we will send out an ACP registration packet. Included in the packet is an ACP Protected Records Voter form. Be sure all forms are filled out and sent back to ACP. Our staff will then be sure to register them as a Protected Records Voter!

For more on voting, please refer to page 23 of the ACP Key Information Handbook.

Call the ACP at 360-753-2972 or 1-800-822-1065 with any questions!