

Safe at Home Amendments

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Updates to Government Entity Safe at Home Requirements

Safe at Home is program administered by the Secretary of State's Office that helps people who fear for their safety maintain a confidential address. The Secretary of State's Office is proposing updates to the requirements for government entities for protecting Safe at Home participant data. The changes would ensure clearer direction to meet the statutory requirements. As an entity that collects participant data, Hennepin County supports these changes.

Safe at Home General Notices

A general notice protects identity and location data about Safe at Home participants that would otherwise be public. It affects all of a government entity's records that contain the participant's name or address.

Changes to Safe at Home General Notices will ensure appropriate protections by:

- Requiring the names and dates of birth for all individuals protected by a Safe at Home General Notice. This helps to ensure government entities identify the correct individuals to protect.
- Allowing for individuals submitting the notice to specify what data they would like protected. Employees with public facing jobs (e.g., probation officers, county attorneys) may want their home addresses protected, but would not be able to fulfill their job duties if the fact they are employees of the government entity is protected.

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Safe at Home Real Property Notices

A real property notice applies to real property data and protects a Safe at Home participant's identity in connection with a specific property.

Changes to real property notice requirements will recognize that real property data are beyond the recorder's office. These types of data are often public, and we cannot privatize data retroactively.

- Clarifies that the Real Property Notice is not just notice to the county recorder but applies to all real property records held by a government entity, such as assessment and taxation records.
- Modifies language to provide that a real property notice may be submitted to any government entity that holds real property data. The county recorder would provide a copy of the notice to the county's responsible authority.
- Adds birth date and removes expiration date from the Real Property Notice form.
- Provides that the county notifies the Secretary of State's Office when termination of the participant's protection occurs.

Safe at Home – Data and Records

Changes will allow entities to update official records and allow the dissemination of real property data to meet statutory requirements.

- Permits sharing of real property data between government entities for assessment and taxation purposes.
- Allows a government entity to amend official records to replace a participant's location data with the participant's designated Safe at Home address.

