

This is a short submission. I would like to see it established in law that a person has control over information gathered about him or herself. That is, information about me should belong to me in the same way that my intellectual property belongs to me. (An example is copyright law, where anything I write is by default owned by me.) Anyone using information about me would then have to ask my permission to use it. Putting this principle (i.e. information about a person belongs to that person) into law would hopefully be an effective hindrance to abuse of personal information. An example of such abuse would be using leaked confidential medical records to refuse a person insurance. The person harmed would then have legal recourse against the insurer for using privileged information without the owner's consent, in the same way that using a person's intellectual property without consent is an offence. A person's DNA sequence is one example of personal information that should not be able to be used in a way that harms the person. (Cf. the US GINA Act.) A person's electronic health record is another example. Associated with a person's ownership of information about him or herself is the obligation to obtain informed consent to use information about the person for any purpose.