



Daniel J. O'Connor Jr.

Franklin County Recorder

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Franklin County Recorder Daniel O'Connor Reinforces Legislation Enhancing the Security for Ohio's Judges and Magistrates

Columbus, OH- Franklin County Recorder Daniel J. O'Connor, Jr. will begin implementation of House Bill 341 created to further protect the safety of public servants. This new legislation will expand the already specified list of public servants whose residential information is exempt from public record to include judges and magistrates.

Under House Bill 341, which takes effect on April 5th, 2019, the Recorder's Office will begin redaction of judges' and magistrates' personal addresses from public record. This legislation will protect Ohio's judges and magistrates by ensuring that their residential addresses are handled with the utmost privacy enabling them to do their jobs effectively without fear of harm.

The necessity to offer better protections for judges and magistrates was heightened after common pleas Judge Joseph J. Bruzzese, Jr. was shot outside the Jefferson County Courthouse in 2017. This targeted attack against Judge Bruzzese emphasized the need for additional security measures to protect judges and magistrates. House Bill 341 provides vital legislation in the fight for the safety of Ohio's public servants, including judges and magistrates.

"Judges and Magistrates who work to ensure the safety and well-being of Ohioans deserve to feel that information as personal as their residential address is being treated with the utmost discretion," said O'Connor. "This new legislation will provide additional security for judges, magistrates, and their families. I encourage eligible public servants wishing to redact their residential address to file the appropriate form and use the Recorder's Office as a resource."

Designated public servants, now including judges and magistrates, wishing to have their residential information redacted from public record should access the "Request to Redact Address" Form within the "What We Do" section at <https://recorder.franklincountyohio.gov/> or contact the customer service department at the Recorder's Office at 614-525-3930.

Additionally, Recorder O'Connor applauds current Statehouse officials in the passing of House Bill 61 and encourages State senators to follow suit, voicing their support for this legislation. This bill, sponsored by State Rep. Laura Lanese and co-sponsored by State Rep. Beth Liston, would add certain mental health providers to the list of those eligible to have their residential and family information exempted from disclosure. This adaption to Ohio's public records law, will further protect Ohioans and their personal information.