

DHS CRIMINAL HISTORY POLICY
GEORGIA CRIME INFORMATION CENTER
AWARENESS STATEMENT

Access to Criminal Justice Information, as defined in GCIC Council Rule 140-1-.02 (amended), and dissemination of such information are governed by State and Federal laws and by GCIC Council Rules. Criminal Justice Information cannot be accessed or disseminated by any employee except as directed by superiors and as authorized by approved standard operating procedures which are based on controlling State and Federal laws, relevant Federal regulations, and the Rules of the GCIC Council.

O.C.G.A. § 35-3-38 establishes criminal penalties for specific offenses involving obtaining, using, or disseminating criminal history record information except as permitted by law. The same statute establishes criminal penalties for disclosing or attempting to disclose techniques or methods employed to ensure the security and privacy of information or data contained in Georgia criminal justice information systems.

The Georgia Computer Systems Protection Act (O.C.G.A. § 16-9-90 et seq.) was enacted to provide statutory protection for public sector and private sector computer systems, including communications links to such computer systems. The Act establishes major felony penalties for four criminal offenses: Computer Theft, Computer Trespass, Computer Invasion of Privacy, and Computer Forgery. The Act defines each of the felonies in broad terms. The criminal penalties for each offense include maximum sentences of confinement for 15 years, fines up to \$50,000.00, and civil penalties. The Act also establishes Computer Password Disclosure as a criminal offense with penalties of confinement for not more than one year and a fine up to \$5,000.00, or both.

These above-cited statutes have broad application in Georgia, to private citizens, to public officials, and to employees of governmental agencies. The Georgia Criminal Justice Information System Network, operated by the Georgia Crime Information Center in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 35-3-31, and all of the data bases accessible via Network terminals, are protected by the Computer Systems Protection Act. Similar communications and computer systems operated by municipal/county governments are also protected by the Act.

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read this Awareness Statement.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name (Please Print): _____

Position Title: _____

Witnessed: _____

Date: _____