What's in a Name? Understanding the Statement of Information

When a title company seeks to uncover matters affecting title to real property, what does it find? The answer is, "Quite a bit." In order to address the "quite a bit of information" found, you are asked to complete a Statement of Information for the title company to use to distinguish the buyers and sellers of your real property from other similar names. In fact the new CAR Residential Purchase Agreement calls for a Statement of Information to be provided by the seller to the escrow holder within seven days of acceptance. To help you better understand this sensitive subject, the California Land Title Association (CLTA) has answered some of the questions most commonly asked about the Statement of Information.

What is a Statement of Information?

A Statement of Information is a form routinely requested from the buyer, seller and borrower in a transaction where title insurance is sought. The completed form provides the title company with information needed to adequately examine documents so as to disregard matters which do not affect the property to be insured, matters which actually apply to some other person.

What does a Statement of Information do?

Everyday documents affecting real property - liens, court decrees, bankruptcies - are recorded.

Whenever a title company uncovers a recorded document in which the name is the same or similar to that of the buyer, seller or borrower in a title transaction, the title company must ask, "Does this document affect the parties we are insuring?" Because if it does, it affects title to the property; therefore, it would be listed as an exception from coverage under the title policy.

A properly completed Statement of Information will allow the title company to differentiate between parties with the same or similar names when searching documents recorded by name. This protects all parties involved and allows the title company to competently carry out its duties without unnecessary delay.

Will the information I supply be kept confidential?

The information you supply is confidential and for the title company's use in completing the search of records necessary before any policy of title insurance can be issued, and for the escrow company's use in completing your transaction.

What types of information are requested in a Statement of Information?

The information requested may include, but is not limited to full name(s); last four digits of your Social Security number; drivers license number; year of birth; date of marriage if applicable; any previous marriage(s) if applicable; residence(s) for the past 10 years and place(s) of employment for the past 10 years. (see sample on back)

What happens if a buyer, seller or borrower fails to provide the requested Statement of Information?

At best, failure to provide the requested Statement of Information will hinder the search and examination capabilities of the title company, causing delay in the production of your title policy.

At worst, failure to provide the information requested could delay the close of escrow. Without a Statement of Information, it would be necessary for the title company to list as exceptions from coverage judgments, liens or other matters which may affect the property to be insured. Such exceptions would be unacceptable to most lenders, whose interest must also be insured.





Statement of Information

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Paragraph 12(A) pg 4. "Seller shall within 7 Days After Acceptance give Escrow Holder a completed Statement of Information."