



Mulcahy Memo - June 3, 2010

Published for clients and friends of the Mulcahy Law Firm, P.C.

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The Census & Your Association

Our firm has been repeatedly asked questions regarding the ongoing census process. Many community association managers and associations are being asked to provide information about, or access to residents of their associations and physical access to properties. According to federal law, an association **MUST** provide access to and/or the names of residents to a census employee to avoid a fine. However, the association does not need to provide any information beyond this. In fact, providing additional information may place the association at risk of liability.

Pursuant to Title 13 of the U.S. Code Section 223: Article 1. Section 2, Congress is empowered to carry out the census "in such manner as they shall by Law direct."

Summarized it says: Whoever, refuses or willfully neglects, when requested by any officer or employee of the Department of Commerce or bureau or agency thereof, to furnish the names of the occupants of such premises or to give free ingress thereto and egress there from so as to permit the collection of statistics with respect to any census shall be fined not more than \$500.

There are other facts you should be aware of regarding the census process:

- The census taker is required to show their government identification badge if requested.
- An individual can also contact the Regional Census Center to confirm the census taker is employed by the Census Bureau. (Arizona's Number 720-475-3640, which is the Denver Regional Census Center)
- A census taker will **NEVER** ask to enter your home.

Please be aware of these cautionary measures before answering any questions.

If you are an association manager or on the board of directors and you are being asked to provide information regarding the association records to someone saying they are a census taker, our firm recommends that you: 1) request to see their government identification badge; 2) consider the information being requested; and 3) consider speaking with the association's legal counsel to assure you are not putting the association and yourself at risk.