



# DATA BROKER

## HARMS:

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

## THE PROBLEM

Data brokers are companies that collect, aggregate, and sell personal information without individuals' knowledge or consent. This information often includes names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and purchase histories.

For domestic violence survivors, the trade of personal information poses significant risks. Data brokers compile extensive profiles from public records, including updated property records, court testimonies, and consumer data.

By selling this information, data brokers inadvertently provide abusers with tools to locate and track their victims, creating severe safety threats.

## ALARMING CONSEQUENCES TO SURVIVORS

- ➔ **Psychological Impact:** Survivors experience heightened anxiety and fear because their abusers can obtain personal information about them from data brokers.
- ➔ **Housing Insecurity:** Survivors may avoid purchasing or renting property to prevent their address from being included in public records, which may be amplified by data brokers. Many resort to unstable living arrangements like couch surfing or temporary housing, and some may even opt for homelessness over the risk of being found.
- ➔ **Barriers to Legal and Social Services:** Survivors may avoid seeking legal services that require personal information, limiting access to necessary support. Public court records are often traded by data brokers, which further deters survivors from seeking legal action.
- ➔ **Employment Challenges:** Background checks can link new identities with past records, exposing survivors who change their names. Data brokers may obtain employer data through breaches, which could enable abusers to gain access to survivors' information.

## NEW DATA BROKER RULES WILL REDUCE THREATS TO SURVIVORS

New rules being considered by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would clarify that data brokers are covered by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, meaning that data brokers can only collect consumer information for a limited number of permissible purposes. The rules would also clarify that data brokers can only share data they collect with third parties for permissible purposes.

**Minimizing the data that brokers amass and sell in the first place is a powerful safeguard: you don't have to protect what you don't collect.**

Further, interested parties should submit comments on the proposed rules when the CFPB releases the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://epic.org/cfpb-fair-credit-reporting-act-rulemaking/>

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NNEDV  
NATIONAL NETWORK  
TO END DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

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