# Address Confidentiality Program Safe at home John R. Ashcroft • Secretary of State

Safe at Home

www.MoSafeAtHome.com

PO Box 1409 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: (866) 509-1409 FAX: (573) 522-1525

Email: SafeAtHome@sos.mo.gov

# Safe at Home Participant News

## **Protecting Your Confidential Address**

Safe at Home provides participants with a substitute address to use in place of their home address when making new public records with state and local government agencies and the courts. This means Safe at Home makes it possible for participants to keep their home address confidential by providing only the substitute address on public records and by not disclosing their actual physical address.

Participants may interact with agency employees who are not familiar with the Safe at Home program and are unsure how to use the substitute address in place of a home address. It is important for participants to understand that Safe at Home cannot require an organization to redact a home address or keep it confidential once the participant has disclosed the address to the agency. **Therefore, if a participant discloses his or her confidential address, Safe at Home cannot protect it.** 

Safe at Home can, however, help ensure that participants are allowed to use the substitute address in place of their confidential address when appropriate. Agency employees are often simply following agency guidelines or policies which require a home address. It is not uncommon for agency employees to ask all customers for a home address, including Safe at Home participants. However, if an agency employee insists that collecting a home address is required for their agency's services, the participant may ask the employee to call the Safe at Home staff for further information or the participant may call Safe at Home themselves to request assistance. **Safe at Home must be contacted prior disclosing a confidential address or the information cannot be protected.** 



# **Registering for School**

Registering for school can be an exciting time for families. In preparation for school, remember to utilize the Safe at Home substitute address when completing enrollment documents. Public schools are required to accept the Safe at Home substitute address in place of the confidential address. If a school representative asks to verify a home address, participants should:

- explain that they participate in an address confidentiality program administered through the Secretary of State's Office;
- show their authorization card;
- ask the employee to contact the Safe at Home program at (866) 509-1409 for residency verification information; and
- refrain from disclosing their confidential address. If a participant voluntarily provides a home address to the school, it might not remain confidential.

If there are any questions, please contact Safe at Home toll free at (866) 509-1409.



#### Show It 2 Vote

Missouri's new photo ID requirement for voting is now in effect. In all future elections all voters (including Safe at Home participants) will be asked to show a photo ID before they can vote. Here are three ways to meet the requirements:

1. Show a government-issued photo ID:

Driver License; Nondriver License; Passport; or a Military ID.

2. Sign the statement provided at the polling place and show one of the following:

Safe at Home authorization card; Voter Registration Card; ID from a Missouri university, college, vocational or technical school; Utility Bill; Bank Statement; Government Check; Paycheck; or a Other Government document showing the voter's name and address.

3. Vote a provisional ballot. There are two ways a vote counts:

If the signature matches the signature on the voter registration, the vote counts. If the voter returns to the polling place and shows a photo ID, the vote counts.

It is important to remember that Safe at Home participants who are registered to vote are registered with a voter code in place of their name. Photo ID may verify identity visually, but it will not allow a poll worker to verify a Safe at Home voter code. Participants still need to take their Safe at Home authorization card or their voter ID card when they go to vote to help ensure their voter registration can be confirmed.

#### Voter Registration and Safe at Home

Participants in Safe at Home can still exercise their right to vote. A participant can register to vote without disclosing their confidential address by using the Safe at Home program. If a participant did not choose to register to vote during their enrollment with Safe at Home and wish to register in the future, they can contact the Safe at Home office for instructions. A participant should keep in mind that if they register to vote through any other agency, their confidential address might not be protected and could become public record.

#### Name or Address Changes

For security reasons, Safe at Home cannot make address or name changes over the phone. All changes must be submitted in writing and must include your signature. Name changes must be accompanied by proof of a legal name change. Address or name changes may be received by fax or mail.

### **Upcoming Holidays**

The Safe at Home office will be closed and participant mail will not be forwarded on the following state holidays:

- Independence Day July 4, 2018
- Labor Day September 3, 2018
- Columbus Day October 8, 2018

Volume 20 • July 2018