

The Dane County Register of Deeds Office has initiated a social security number redaction project that will safeguard identity related information contained in real estate documents recorded prior to 2006. Social security numbers were removed from all recorded documents after this date. This project, expected to launch soon, will utilize existing software to filter out social security numbers from any real estate document recorded prior to 2006.

The redaction software will review entire scanned pages for pre-determined numeric sequence streams known to be social security numbers. The redaction process will not permanently alter the archived image. The Register of Deeds office is not allowed under Wisconsin law to alter these legal records. Instead the real estate document images accessible to the public, both in the Register of Deeds Office and on-line, will be filtered by the software, allowing the Register of Deeds to retain the original image.

Citizens desiring their records to be immediately redacted can send a letter or an email to the Register of Deeds, including their full names and those document numbers of the documents they wish to have the social security number(s) redacted. These individual document redactions are time consuming, but Register of Deeds staff will work hard to complete the requested redactions immediately upon receipt.

Dane County's goal is be a proactive advocate of our citizens and our community by making best efforts to protect sensitive information and to advance government's inherent obligation to utilize advancing technologies to reliably protect the records in its care.