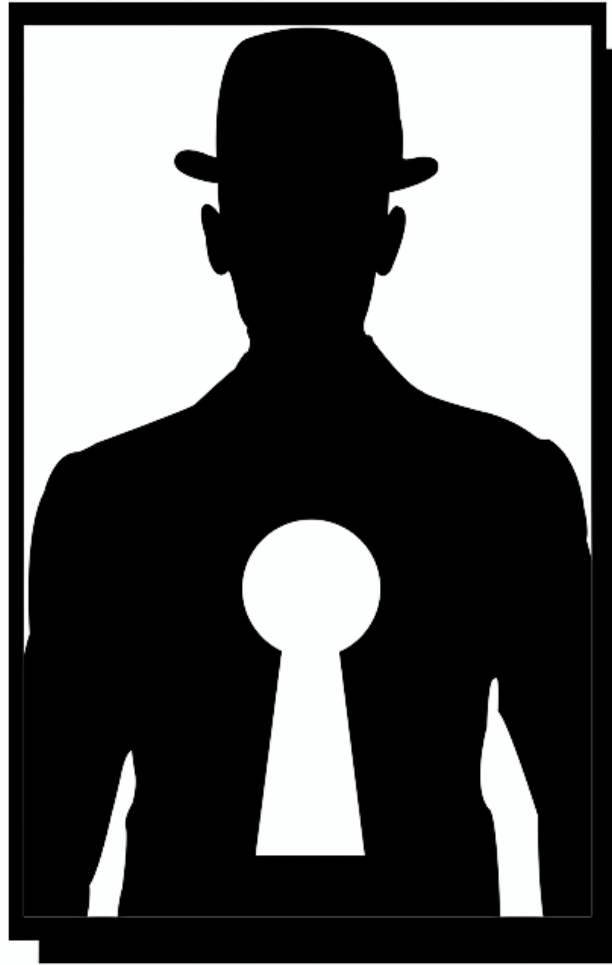


HowToVANISH.com



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**POLITICAL PRIVACY**

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## **LEGAL DISCLAIMER**

This book is intended to be a general discussion only, and must not be considered legal advice. Your use of it does not create an attorney-client relationship. Any liability that might arise from your use or reliance on this book is expressly disclaimed. This book is not legal, loan, accounting or tax advice, and is not to be acted on as such. All readers are advised to seek services of competent professionals in the legal, business, accounting, and finance fields. References in the book to products, service providers, and potential sources of additional information do not mean that I can vouch for such products or services or the information or recommendations in those sources. I am not responsible for any third-party product or service or content over which I do not have control.

## Introduction To The Importance Of Privacy

The issue is not security or privacy but instead freedom of choice or coercion. Violence and intimidation, whether it arises from a foreign attack or from domestic authorities with their police state microscopes focused on everyone's lives, the effect is the same: tyranny. Freedom of choice, that which makes life worth living, requires as a fundamental element for the individual to securely go about life without intrusion or the threat of surveillance. Where there is ubiquitous police surveillance there is the police state.

Therefore, if we value freedom of choice instead of coercion and force then we should be staunch advocates for privacy, especially when we have nothing to hide.

If we are espied in all circumstances then we are persistently under threat of being unjustly judged, criticized, corrected, punished and even plagiarized of our own autonomy. We become wards of Big Brother, bound in the chains of coercion with the reasonable fear that, either now or when we least expect it, any action may later become evidence for some imagined wrong because the All Seeing Eye observes and records the minutia of daily life.

Thus, without the ability to keep secrets, individuals lose the capacity to distinguish themselves from others, to maintain independent lives, to be complete and autonomous persons. This does not mean that a person actually has to keep secrets to be autonomous, just that she or he must possess the ability to do so.

The ability to keep secrets implies the ability to disclose secrets selectively, and so the capacity for selective disclosure at one's own discretion is important to individual autonomy as well.

Secrecy is a form of power. The ability to protect a secret, to preserve one's privacy, is a form of power. The ability to penetrate secrets, to learn them, to use them, is also a form of power. Secrecy empowers, secrecy protects, secrecy hurts. The ability to learn a person's secrets without her knowledge — to pierce a person's privacy in secret — is a greater power still.

And yet it is ideas that move the world and ideas may only be supplanted by other ideas. Ideas are bulletproof. But those with inferior ideas, those barbarians who have to rely on force of arms instead of force of logic and reason tend to lash out when they meet a superior opponent.

And how do they lash out? Although warned to abandon the idea under threat of force, Galileo Galilei refused and was found guilty being vehemently suspect of heresy and confined to house arrest for the rest of his life. Why? Because he spread the rudimentary idea that the earth revolved around the sun; dispelling the Establishment's enslaving illusion.

Nicolaus Copernicus waited decades before he published the work that laid the foundation for Galileo because of the threat of criticism and force. But legend has it that the first printed copy of *De revolutionibus* was placed in his hands on the very day that he died, allowing him to take farewell of his life's work. He is reputed to have awoken from a stroke-induced coma, looked at his book, and then died peacefully. How would humanity have been better off if these geniuses had the ability to keep their identity private while spreading the supernal and truthful ideas?

Yes, humanity occasionally takes detours as it climbs from the swamps of tyranny to the celestial stars of freedom, peace and prosperity. The out of control and insane governments with their costumed stormtroopers are becoming destructive of the ends of safety and happiness of the heirs of the Founding Fathers and of the whole world. Is it any wonder that China requires the identification of anyone who uses the Internet?

But it is the right of those heirs of freedom and liberty 'to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government'. Ideas will spread. Coercion, force, theft, fraud and all manner of immoral behavior, whether done by the authorities or anonymous criminals shrinks and withers before the sunlight of truthful ideas.

While the baton, taser, assault rifle or stealth bomber may be used in lieu of conversation, words will always retain their power. Ideas can only be overcome by other ideas. Violence and force are powerless against the power of ideas and in many cases their use only hastens the spread and adoption. Words proffer the instruments to meaning. Equity, freedom, justice, peace and prosperity. These are not mere words; they are vantage points. The pen is mightier than the sword.

We want to help you exercise your unalienable right to secrecy, or in other words, to have you and your property left alone. We want you to be able to live, work and play without the constant fear of being monitored and, potentially, unjustly judged, criticized, extorted, detained or punished. Our desire is to staunchly protect and defend the individual's privacy so that you can be what you were born to be: free and independent.

You will be guided by How to Vanish in many aspects of personal and financial privacy with practical suggestions to legally protect it. Everything from the sensible, like keeping your personal data from nefarious scammers, spammers, phishers and identity thieves, to the reassuring, like securing your confidential communications, your home and your finances to ensure they are free from other's unsettling intrusions. You will learn solutions and suggestions at every level of ease or difficulty in terms of time, money or effort. No matter where you are on your journey towards privacy, except maybe Jason Bourne, you will find useful and actionable information.

You will learn principles and techniques that will help at home or abroad in avoiding the dangers inherent when privacy is breached. You can select the most applicable methods and techniques to practice. Then you can progress towards and achieve increasingly difficult goals. This journey is exciting and intriguing so be creative and have fun!

## **Is Privacy Dead?**

Some people feel like it is useless to protect privacy. Privacy pessimists already feel the ubiquitous surveillance of almost every action they take. They envision a near future when every thought, word and deed are detected recorded and archived for later reference by anyone who wants to know. The advance of technology makes it seem like privacy is dead.

### **Privacy Is Dead Because Of Technology?**

It is true that technology is advancing to track our every move, often without our knowledge. But technology is also advancing to protect privacy in ways that were not available before. There are already many tools that we can use to protect our private information and most of them are free and easy. Tor, Truecrypt, and GnuPG are three great examples.

Unfortunately, as Julian Assange alluded to following the release of “The Spy Files”, much of the technological effort is aimed at invading privacy. But, if privacy is valuable to people, more and more privacy protecting solutions will become available. If privacy is not valuable, then nobody will read this.

The reality is that privacy protecting technology is usually easier to employ than privacy invading technologies. For example, it is free and only takes a few seconds to encrypt files or emails. To break into those emails, you need a significant amount of technical skill, time and money.

### **Privacy Is Dead Because Of Social Norms?**

Many also look to the changing social norms that seem to punish people who don't want to participate in social network surveillance. Idiots get paid millions to display their stupidity on TV and on the internet. Governments and advertisers can now track people like the East German Stasi could only dream. But, even Mark Zuckerberg is publicly noting the dangers of social networking. Plus, the Stasi aren't forcing anyone to use Facebook.

### **The Law Is Killing Privacy?**

The Patriot Act has made constant, warrantless digital searches legal. Telecommunications are controlled by strict regulation, preventing communication without government permission. Your bank accounts are under government surveillance. Death by one thousand cuts of privacy invading regulation is a real problem, but the future is not as bleak as it may appear if we look at the bigger picture.

Americans of Japanese descent have much more privacy now than they did during World War II, even though the law allowing them to be imprisoned based on nothing but their heritage is still valid.

Minorities, while still brutalized by law enforcement, are brutalized much less and enjoy much greater freedom than they did under Jim Crow laws.

## **Encryption Technology Is A Model For Privacy**

The most significant protection from unjust law is the technology that has developed to make the law irrelevant. The history of strong encryption is a good example of this. Strong encryption was developed and used by the US military several years ago. At that time, fearing the power of encryption in the hands of the enemies of the US military, it was illegal to export high level encryption technologies to other countries. It was treated as a munition.

But, other groups outside the US were able to harness the power of mathematics and develop strong encryption on their own. Now, strong encryption is so ubiquitous it is available for free to anyone with access to the internet. The law preventing the export of encryption is as useful as a law preventing people from riding their bike in a swimming pool and was severely relaxed in the US.

Many other technologies are rendering other laws irrelevant. Torrents, Tor, GnuPG and other solutions allow individuals to communicate privately. Financial transactions can take place with Bitcoin across international borders with no limits on value, no declarations, and no ability to restrict a transfer.

## **Keeping Privacy Alive**

As with most things in life, 80% of the benefits of privacy can be attained with 20% of the effort. Focusing on just a few of the most effective privacy tools and techniques will go a long way to protecting a material amount of your personal privacy. Giving up does not do any good.

## **Conclusion**

Privacy is alive. We may not be able to unplug completely from the Matrix, but we can have a material amount of privacy by using a few tools that best fit our situation. All we need is to carve out some areas where we can keep our private files, communicate anonymously and transact anonymously

Other information, like our favorite color and our favorite food can be uploaded to the Matrix without much harm done to ourselves. I have no doubt that in some ways there will be privacy battles that are lost in the future. But at the same time, I have no doubt that many solutions to protecting the most fundamental aspects of human autonomy will be developed. There is no putting the genie back in the bottle for many of the privacy protecting tools that have been, or will be developed. Long live privacy!



# Why To Take Control Of Your Privacy Incrementally

I have a good friend who is a former special forces soldier. We sat down to lunch a few days ago and he told me about a lot of the training that they go through. Every special forces soldier gets millions of dollars worth of training making them best trained military soldiers to have ever walked on this planet. He didn't get into anything that he was prohibited from sharing, of course, but I was fascinated by some of the things he shared about surviving capture by an enemy and even torture. There are two fundamental principles that keep soldiers, and anyone else, alive and strong through such an extreme experience: Following the rules and winning small mental victories.

## Surviving Capture Rule #1: Follow The Rules

Whether captured by an opposing army, a brutal dictator, a rogue band of narco-terrorists, or some other hostile group, the first rule is to obey your captor. They may or may not care about your survival, but they sure as heck aren't going to keep you alive if you are a nuisance. You are at their mercy and should do everything you can to get on their good side. Complying quickly with their orders is one of the best ways to do this.

They will inevitably have unfair and stupid rules. Violating unfair and stupid rules could lead to severe punishment and maybe even death. The endearing image of Steve McQueen tossing a baseball against the wall in solitary confinement in *The Great Escape* couldn't be further from the truth. In those kinds of dire circumstances staying alive by following the orders of your captors is the highest priority.

## Surviving Capture Rule #2: Win Secret Mini-Battles

Your mental strength is the other essential element to surviving captivity. Surviving physically might be worthless unless you survive mentally as well.

To avoid being broken down mentally you need to find ways to win secret battles against your captors. Although not the best example, one of the POW's imprisoned with John McCain found a way to sew images on the inside of his clothes to win a small victory against his captors. Even in *V for Vendetta* beat her "captors" and stayed mentally strong by reading the journal hidden in crack of her cell wall. Secretly flipping your captor the bird while their back is turned can be another victory. You did it, they didn't see you do it, you win.

## Why Should You Care?

There are very few of us who will be in a position like Elizabeth Smart, Aung San Suu Kyi, John McCain, or hostages of the FARC. It is more likely that we might find ourselves traveling in a dictatorship or even living in a formerly free country that has succumbed to the principles of totalitarianism, where fundamental human rights are not respected by the government.

The world is full of countries that accept torture, order assassination of its citizens that are not even charged with a crime, defend institutionalized sexual assault, and humiliate innocent people by forcing public nudity.

North Koreans, for example, fell captive to their government and need to obey the ridiculous laws as strictly as they can to keep from being imprisoned or publicly executed.

People in these circumstances are captives and need to use the same tactics to survive both mentally and physically. But if they are to survive mentally, they need to find small ways to win little secret victories against their captor.

### **Obeying Ridiculous Laws**

Many laws are ridiculous. If a law violates a fundamental human right, for example, it is ridiculous. It might be better to obey a ridiculous law and suffer a little bit than experience the greater suffering that might come from violating a law. Violating the law gives captors an excuse to do terrible things, often with the support of the public who may be unsympathetic to people who violate the law.

Non-violent civil disobedience is still a common practice and, after exhaustion of all available legal remedies, may be a successful way to combat immoral laws. Be prepared to pay the legal price for engaging in civil disobedience.

### **You Need Privacy To Win Little Victories**

You cannot win little victories like Evey Hammond, or John McCain's cell mate without privacy. The tools and tactics of [HowToVanish.com](http://HowToVanish.com) and the book "*How To Vanish*" are essential to helping you maintain privacy in case you might find yourself in one of the unfortunate situations of an oppressed citizen, traveler, or other captive.

If you encrypt a birthday message to your grandma, just so someone else can't read it, you have won a small victory. If you encrypt your grocery list, you have won a small victory. If you shop anonymously with cash and don't use an identifying shopper card to buy your groceries, you have won a small victory. If you watch the latest episode of the Office over an encrypted VPN, you have won a small victory. Burying a gold or silver coin in a place only you know about is a small victory. These small victories will help you survive captivity both physically and mentally.

### **Conclusion**

Stay alive and win small victories. Use the legal tools and techniques from "*How to Vanish*" to do that. If you haven't already gotten your copy of the book "*How To Vanish*", check it out so you have a whole arsenal of ways to win little victories.

## **Tim Ferris Is California's Bitch**

A few years ago I ran into Tim Ferris after his speech at a WordCamp in San Francisco. I even told him about my new blog, How To Vanish, and he said the name was awesome.

Tim Ferris is a two time New York Times best selling author of books in two different genres: "*The Four Hour Work Week*" and "*The Four Hour Body*". I have bought and read both and would recommend them. Please use my Amazon affiliate links to help support HowToVanish.

Tim is an excellent example of a successful entrepreneur. The type of person who creates massive value for society through great products, keen insight, job creation and profitable ventures.

### **CALIFORNIA AND AMAZON.COM**

California has been perpetually struggling with large budget deficits, cash shortages and systemic financial mismanagement. In early July in an attempt to raise revenue the California legislature passed a bill into law that requires large out of state retailers to collect and remit sales tax to California if they have affiliates in the state. In defensive response Amazon.com canceled its affiliate program with all California domiciled affiliates. This same set of events has happened in other states.

### **TIM FERRIS'S EXPERIENCE**

For whatever reason Tim has willfully chosen to be California's bitch when he does not have to be by allowing his income stream to be castrated.

Tim Ferris used to earn some serious dough as an Amazon affiliate. In Tim Ferris's Random Episode 16 at 13:44 he says about his Amazon earnings, "In any case, that adds up to in some cases uhh high in a few cases mid to high five figures a month. It really adds up. And that was just canceled, eliminated overnight."

Kevin Rose, founder of Digg.com, responded, "That sucks man, that is a lot of cash to lose." to which Tim responded, "It does."

### **INCOME STREAM REPLACEMENT COST**

Kevin is not joking. Losing a \$10,000-\$90,000 per month passive income stream is material to anybody. Amazon affiliate payments are great because all you do is put in the bank details and they send the payment automatically each month kind of like a dividend or interest payment.

If Tim were to follow the principles in "*Four Hour Work Week*" and replace the lost Amazon income stream with something which does not take much time or attention then what would it take?

Using Google Advisor to find a 1-year CD to yield about \$50,000 per month would require about \$27,500,000 in principal. Exxon is trading at about \$82 per share and

paying a dividend of \$0.47 per quarter so it would only take about 320,000 shares which would cost about \$26,240,000.

## **AHEAD OF THE CURVE – FIVE FLAG THEORY**

Back in October 2010 we wrote about how those people domiciled in Philadelphia need a \$300 Business Privilege License to operate their blog. Perhaps California will follow their lead and Tim will have to get a Business Privilege License

Even earlier in March 2010 we wrote, in Colorado vs. Amazon: Who Wins In A Fight?, about how Amazon cut off Colorado affiliates in the exact same way and what Colorado affiliates could do to protect their income. Those who followed our advice protected their income streams.

As the politicians continue intentionally exacerbating The Greater Depression more state, local and national governments will continue greedily grabbing after more money. Of all the risks in the economy I think jurisdictional risk is the most potent. Sure, this poses a significant problem to the successful entrepreneur but they are, after all, problem solvers as an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Tim Ferris even wrote a great post about this called How To Be Jason Bourne: Multiple Passports, Swiss Banking, and Crossing Borders which includes an introduction to the Five Flag Theory. A theory I devote almost the entire sixth chapter to in The Great Credit Contraction.

But Tim does not like to get political and it appears he has not followed the five flag theory he wrote about. For whatever reason Tim has willfully chosen to be California's bitch when he does not have to be by allowing his income stream to be castrated. So how is that working out for you?

## **PROBLEM SOLVING**

How could Tim Ferris have pre-emptively solved this issue that resulted in the loss of about \$50,000 per month of income?

Pretty easily actually. For a few hundred dollars he could have setup a privacy conscious New Mexico LLC where no income is due if not New Mexico sourced or in another jurisdiction like Oregon where there is no state sales tax. For a few thousand dollars he could have gone international with a Saint Kitts or Hong Kong company, magnifying the positive effects.

Considering this would be about one week's of earnings, take a couple hours to get all setup and the income stream would be protected for years, I think it would have been a pretty wise thing for Tim to do. It will likely be many years before Amazon cuts off affiliates from these places.

Tim likely pays large amounts of income taxes to California, too. Imagine if he were domiciled somewhere like New Hampshire or Alaska which have neither state sales tax nor state income tax. He and those like him who earn at least \$50,000 per year in location independent income really should consider our product State Income Tax Optimization. It is for those people who want to design their lifestyles by choosing where their state tax domicile is when they tired of being someone's bitch.

## CONCLUSION

I wonder what will be California's next step in designing Tim's lifestyle. Maybe they will decree he has to marry Paris Hilton for the public good and safety.

It appears the individual is just a pawn and this battle over the bottom line is only going to intensify.

Politicians view you as their human livestock to be milked or turned into hamburger. Some, like Tim Ferris, appear to enjoy milking machines tickling their tit because they choose to endure the miking when they do not have to. In my opinion, the wise entrepreneur is diversified not only across states but also countries with trusts, LLCs, multiple passports, addresses, bank accounts, etc.

Fortunately, for the location independent entrepreneur, as opposed to a brick and mortar one, it is somewhat easier to legally plan their affairs and minimize the risk to their business, income and lifestyle. For those new to this way of thinking, to get started you might consider reading more articles around here or our flagship product: "*How To Vanish*" The Book.

## **Colorado vs. Amazon: Who Wins In A Fight?**

State of Colorado jobs are drying up as the heat of legislative pressure beats down on them, causing Colorado based streams of income to evaporate before they ever reach the sea. Meanwhile, the mighty river of income known as Amazon.com meanders on, passing nowhere near state of Colorado jobs. Navigating Colorado law and the profitability of an Amazon.com affiliate account requires learning how to use the tools and master the techniques of a mariner to find the safest harbor to earn your income.

### **Laws Effecting State Of Colorado Jobs**

Colorado recently passed a law which upset the big boys over at Amazon.com and prompted Amazon to stop using Colorado based affiliates. The law created strong incentives for internet based companies to keep track of sales tax on products sold by Colorado based affiliates. Some observers have noted that the law required retailers such as Amazon to report who bought what products to the government.

The requirement to report a list of books purchased should be a red flag to anyone, privacy minded or not. Such a requirement would make anyone who buys the Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder, The Flying Saucers Are Real, How To Vanish, and The Joy of Vegan Baking, a potential target for political persecution anywhere that a neo-con taxman is on the prowl.

Rather than deal with the implications of the new law, Amazon made a business decision to stop using affiliates based in Colorado. That means that about 4,200 people who were earning income from their Amazon affiliate program were suddenly cut off from that income because of their physical location.

### **Vanish From Unfavorable Jurisdictions**

Large corporations and governments both have a lot of economic power. Sometimes their powers conflict, causing pain to those who don't comply with the requirements of one or both of them. Geographic requirements are no longer as imposing as they once were. People can easily become a resident of another state, or even become a resident of another country very easily.

Virtual commuting, electronic filing, and the ability to work completely in the cloud have changed the ability of individuals to travel wherever they want to earn their income. Now you can operate your business from the location of your choice, taking advantage of the tax benefits and other benefits this provides to your personal, business and family privacy.

Not having to be in any particular physical location makes it hard to exert unjust power over you. One of the great advantages might even be avoiding having your business shut down because of political constraints on geography.

### **Choose The Right State To Incorporate**

Corporations have been taking advantage of the ability to select their geographic location for years. Most people are aware that Delaware or Nevada are common places to be incorporated.

The reason being that the laws of those states, both tax and otherwise, are very favorable to a business and can reduce costs of doing business dramatically, even if the individual owner has little connection with those states. You can take advantage of relative geographical freedom by choosing the state of the LLC to suit your needs.

### **Establish Location Independence**

Individuals can do the same thing. If you move around a lot you can establish a home base by getting a ghost address in a particular state, opening a bank account there, and doing other things that demonstrate residency. Just because your office is located in Las Vegas Nevada doesn't mean you have to live there.

You might be able to work out of Lake Tahoe Nevada, have your phones forwarded from Las Vegas to Tahoe, have your mail picked up on a regular basis forwarded from your Las Vegas address to your Tahoe address. Lake Tahoe is much better for your health anyways. When you are done visiting Lake Tahoe, and you decide to spend some time fishing in Montana, keep the same Las Vegas address and have everything forwarded to where you are now staying in Montana.

Any requirements to do work in Las Vegas can be met by visiting that office as often as the law requires.

This same principle can be exploited by the Colorado based affiliates of Amazon. They can operate out of Kansas as easily as they can operate out of Denver. There is very little which keeps them tied to Colorado and many incentives to leave Colorado.

### **Conclusion**

Don't be locked down into the potentially harmful requirements of geographic location whenever possible. Set up your business in the right state, establish residency in the right state and avoid having your business shut down due to government or corporate geographic requirements.

## **Foreign Drivers License Protects Families**

Your home address is one of the most sensitive pieces of information you have. You don't want uninvited visitors bothering you and your family at home. Even though lots of businesses want to get a hold of your home address for marketing purposes, there are a lot of ways to prevent revealing your home address without paying that extra \$1 for your Cheerios.

Using a P.O. box or other ghost address will usually cut it when you need to share your home address without disclosing where you and your family actually hang out.

One of the only times that you can't use a ghost address is with a drivers license. A drivers license is an absolute necessity for most people and you can't get one unless you reveal the place where you and your family lay your heads at night. Usually. There is one way to drive legally in the US without having to give away your most sensitive information. Use a foreign drivers license.

### **Revealing Home Address Is Not Safe**

"But," you say, "not just anyone can go look up DMV records." "What is the harm," you proclaim, "from sharing your home address with the government?"

Remember the geniuses you had to deal with the last time you were at the DMV? They are the ones protecting the vast amounts of information in their databases. A little bit of social engineering and, voila: data is easily compromised.

Plus, the bigger the stash of data, the bigger the target for identity thieves and hackers. DMV databases are ripe targets because they house so much important data. Yet the public is essentially forced to store their data in DMV databases and take that risk.

### **Foreign Drivers Licenses Are Legal**

You can drive in any state with a valid drivers license from any other state. You can also drive with a valid drivers license from any other country. (Check Out California Vehicle Code Section 12502 (a)(1)). International drivers license certificates are not required and are really only suggested if your drivers license is from an obscure country.

The other great thing about foreign drivers licenses is that you don't have to reveal any information to the US government to get it. You might be able to find another country that requires less information, or stores less of it in vast electronic databases.

### **Get A Foreign Drivers License**

Every country will have its own laws, but generally if you have permanent residence you can get a drivers license.

### **Avoid Having To Get A Local Drivers License**

Here is where using a foreign drivers license can be tricky, but it is still doable. Most states make you get a license after residing there for just a few days or weeks. This doesn't apply if you are NOT a resident of the state.



If you are a temporary visitor to a state and have your permanent residence somewhere else (like another country) you will not have to get a local license, thereby allowing you to drive without complying with dangerous rules. (Check out California Vehicle Code Section 12505(c)).

People with multiple residences in multiple states have dealt with this issue often. Even though they may spend a few months out of the year at their winter home in Phoenix, a few weeks at their cabin in Montana, and the rest of the year at their permanent home in Lake Tahoe, NV, they do not need to get more than one drivers license. They get it in the place that is their permanent home. It is actually illegal to have more than one drivers license at a time. Using a foreign license is a similar concept on an international scale.

### **Show Permanent Residency Where You Want It**

You are generally considered a resident of the place where you call home, the place where you intend to return. To demonstrate this very subjective standard, you can look at other factors to provide evidence of your permanent residence. Things like your voting registration, where your permanent home is, and several other factors could demonstrate adequate residency. (Check out California Vehicle Code Section 12505(a)).

### **Avoid Residency**

Employees are almost always a resident of the place where they have a job. Either make sure you can work remotely, commute to the place where you work, or avoid being a regular employee. Also, avoid paying in-state tuition if you are a student, or if your kids are students.

There are dozens of other facts that could be used to show where your permanent residence is. The more factors that fall in the place where you wish to be a permanent resident, the better. The State Income Tax Optimization Guide has a comprehensive strategy for controlling where those factors appear and where they do not.

### **Time Is Not Critical**

Many people think that the amount of time you spend somewhere is critical. I often hear the phrase 6 months and 1 day. This may be true in some places, but for the most part it is just a guideline and is not determinative.

It can be helpful (or hurtful) but it isn't everything. Just because you happen to spend more than 6 months in a particular place does not mean that you are a permanent resident there. If other factors line up heavily in favor of some other location as your permanent residence, the other factors will probably control.

### **Conclusion**

Most of these rules are based on the rules of California. Most other places are not as strict. So if you have a valid foreign drivers license and avoid having to get a drivers license in the state where you happen to be driving, you can protect a very important piece of information... where your family actually lives.

So go ahead and protect your family from the useless and dangerous requirement of disclosing your home address in order to drive by getting a foreign drivers license. For more tips on how to protect your important personal information sign up for the email list. For a comprehensive strategy to protect your privacy, check out "*How To Vanish*" the book.

# **You Have The Right To Remain Silent: Fifth Amendment Explained**

“No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

- Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution

The right to remain silent is a fundamental principle of liberty. It gives American citizens better privacy. The burden falls on the accuser to build a case against a person. If the accuser does not meet that burden, the accused is free to go. The accused never, ever, is required to furnish any evidence or testimony against himself. In other words, liberty requires that you have the right to remain silent.

If the accused were forced to produce evidence that they did not commit an act, innocent people would be forced to prove a negative. Proving a negative is usually far more difficult, if not impossible to do. Anyone without an alibi would be convicted. No one could afford to spend even one minute alone in that kind of world. The right to remain silent preserves a functioning system of justice and a functioning society.

## **Fifth Amendment Explained**

The fifth amendment to the United States Constitution does not say explicitly that you have the right to remain silent. It does say that you do not have to be a witness against yourself. This means that you cannot be compelled to reveal information that might implicate you in a crime.

## **You Have The Right To Remain Silent Applies To Innocent People Too**

Law abiding citizens are particularly at risk because they think that the truth will set them free. They feel compelled that if they just tell their story they will be exonerated. This is not true. Numerous opportunities abound for an innocent individual to become entrapped by speaking with police.

## **Fifth Amendment Explained: Exaggeration, Misspeaking, Broad Statements**

Innocent people often overstate or understate some fact while vigorously defending their innocence. This makes their testimony technically untrue, or at least a prosecutor can make it look like it's untrue. Once attention is called to the misstatement, the rest of the testimony is suspect because of the one untruth. This suspicion may be sufficient to land the innocent person in jail.

## **You Have The Right To Remain Silent: Honest Mistakes**

Police officers may make an innocent mistake and not remember correctly what you said. If you claim you told the cop one thing, and he claims you said another, the police officer will be believed over an accused any day. If you had said nothing, the cop would have to flat out lie that you said something. That is not likely to happen.

There may be a witness that will mistakenly identify you as the suspect in a crime. If you claim one thing that is absolutely true, there may be a solid witness that is honestly mistaken about seeing you. If your testimony contradicts theirs, the witness will be believed instead of the accused. If you don't say anything, there will be nothing to contradict and the honesty of the accused will not be in play.

## **Fifth Amendment Explained: Overcriminalization**

The federal criminal code contains over 10,000 crimes. State laws add even more crimes to the list. Not even the government knows them all. Many of these crimes are for seemingly innocent behavior, such as buying 2 packages of cold medicine, or possessing a flower that any other country in the world has outlawed. Thus, telling your true story about your seemingly completely innocent behavior could, in and of itself, implicate you in a crime, you should never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever speak to government agents, ever.

Criminals know that talking may incriminate them and so are much more aware of their right to silence and are much more inclined to use it. Innocent people like you aren't aware of these dangers. And, if someone is truly innocent, they need to know this right and know how to use it far more than criminals do.

## **You Have The Right To Remain Silent For A Reason. Use It For Better Privacy.**

Under no circumstances should you ever talk to a police officer, fire fighter, ticket enforcer or street sweeper. All of them are government agents and can be a witness to use anything you say to them against you in a court of law.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that to invoke your right to silence, you have to break your silence and speak. They might need the fifth amendment explained to them again, but that is what they said. A simple phrase such as "I am invoking my right to remain silent" should suffice.

## **Free Aid For Better Privacy**

There is a free and handy insert for your passport that will show you exactly what you need to do to invoke your right to remain silent. It is designed to help you right when you need it. You will have it with you as you go through Customs upon re-entering the US. Customs officers may need to have the fifth amendment explained to them too, so there are several cases which clearly show your right to remain silent in that situation. Remaining silent can give you better privacy when re-entering the country.

Customs will still have the right to do a thorough search of you and your belongings whether you invoke your right to remain silent or not. Threatening a search, or actually subjecting you to search for invoking your rights is within their power.

## **Avoid Hassle**

To avoid being targeted for a search, it helps if you are not the only one invoking your rights. If lots of others are invoking their right to remain silent on a regular basis, no single individual will stand out any more than normal.

To decrease the likelihood of a search and promote even better privacy, share the free guide with everyone that you know. You have permission to post it anywhere, share it with anyone, make copies, print, and distribute it for free in any legal way as long as nothing is changed. The more people that exercise their rights, the better privacy for everybody.

## **Don't Let The British Kidnap Your Children Too!**

Did you know the British government kidnapped children? On one level "*How To Vanish*" is just a fun way to legally hack the system and try and beat the house. On another level, it can be used as a tool to save money and prevent money from being taken. At the most important level it is a tool to help people avoid the loss of fundamental freedoms and to keep families secure and free from forces that would separate them, including blackmail, kidnapping, and other serious crimes. I recently came across an example which falls into the last category.

### **Kidnapped Children**

Megan Coote and Carissa Smith are two British women who had similar problems. Both were expectant mothers and both were at risk of British social services taking(kidnapping) their babies once they were born, so they both relocated to Spain.

British authorities declared Ms. Coote to be unable to keep her child because she had a low IQ and had an inability to show emotion. After learning that England would not allow a mother like this keep her children, Ms. Coote's parents offered to act as foster parents to their grandchild. They were rejected because Mr. Coote had previously smacked his children to discipline them, like many people old enough to be grandparents used to do.

Similarly, the Brits decided that Ms. Smith's kidnapped children were more happy than they would have been with their mother because she was diagnosed as narcissistic. Thus, if you are a celebrity in England and have, or are thinking of having children, pay very close attention.

I have no knowledge of the details of the diagnoses and I don't condone child abuse, but it seems that there was no real risk of immediate harm to the children and, even if there was, other responsible family members who were capable of preventing harm were available to help.

While in Spain, British authorities caught up to Ms. Smith while she was still in the hospital after having her baby and took her baby away from her. I don't know how England still had the authority for the baby kidnapping while she was still in Spain, but they found a way. Ms. Coote, on the other hand, was not bothered by the British while in Spain. Here is what Ms. Smith could have done, where legal, to avoid having her family torn apart.

### **Leave Territorial Jurisdiction**

In the case of these women, both moved to Spain. Becoming a resident of another jurisdiction can be a good way to escape arbitrary and unjust legal action. This increases the resources needed to enforce an arbitrary law and acts as a "second opinion."

Law enforcement is less concerned with the re-election statistics of another jurisdiction, prefers to spend their budget on their own problems and will avoid enforcing laws that they don't like. The precious law enforcement resources will only be allocated if the local jurisdiction is convinced it is compelling. Plus, the chances of the two jurisdictions sharing information is less likely, especially if it is across national borders.

Unless it is illegal to flee the jurisdiction, this can be a powerful option all by itself. It was at least sufficient for Ms. Coote. There is even the possibility of crossing multiple borders to make it harder for the kidnappers to follow the Pampers trail.

### **Keep Physical Address Private**

England eventually found out about the whereabouts of Ms. Smith. Using ghost addresses when checking into the hospital, staying with friends, renting or purchasing a property in trust could help to keep your actual physical location from being known. It is hard to kidnap your baby if they can't find your baby. And I don't recommend hiding your baby in a reed basket and sending it down the Nile.

### **Avoid Using Public Services**

In this case Ms. Smith went to the hospital to have her baby. It was there that the British government found her. Having your name vanish from hospital records is a hard trick to perform. It is hard to go off the grid for serious medical procedures. There are a few options, but some people might rather take their chances with simple jurisdiction hopping.

Avoiding the hospital and using a service like a mid-wife is an alternative, but it might not be for everyone. Going to a country that doesn't have electronic medical records which can be searched by government officials is another alternative. I bet 4 out of 5 doctors would not recommend leaving the hospital right away so be sure to follow your doctor's advice on how long to stay, but I would hope you don't linger longer than necessary.

### **Conclusion**

Where it is not illegal to do so, using these techniques and the others found in the book *"How To Vanish"* can be used to prevent being subject to laws which destroy families and will hopefully reduce the number of kidnapped children. You probably want to ask your lawyer the consequences of similar actions in your own case before taking any action. These, and other tips in *"How To Vanish"* may be useful to help save some money, or even your family. Using anonymous prepaid credit cards, anonymous web surfing and other techniques can prevent disclosures that lead to serious consequences.

# Living Off The Grid: Privacy Through Resource Independence

Some people might equate living off the grid with living similar to how Olympic Skier Bode Miller did growing up, no electricity, no water, in a remote cabin like its 1099 CE. For some, the idea is romantic, but there are few who are passionate enough about becoming energy independent, reducing their carbon footprint, saving money, or privacy to sacrifice that much of their life, and I don't blame them.

Although Les Stroud chose to go off the grid by purchasing a remote property and supplying it with what he needed, an idea appealing to many, others who wish to vanish in plain site can easily go off the grid as well

Going off the grid is becoming a much less intrusive process, even an average suburban home can go off the grid at the initial cost of a home renovation with no serious disruptions in their way of life. Not having to consume the products of the utility companies means not having to continuously disclose your location and compromise your privacy. Here are the main systems that you can replace.

## Electricity

Producing all of the electricity that you consume is a function of many factors. The climate you live in, the appliances you have, your own personal habits, state laws, local zoning ordinances, and more can all affect your decision about how to produce all of your own electricity.

No matter where you live, you will probably use a combination of solar panels, wind turbines, battery power, and a standby generator. Another component may be to use propane tanks or propane powered generators or appliances. Different combinations of these items can create more than enough power for the average household. Although some like to sell their excess power back to the grid, where possible, if privacy is your goal, severing your connection to the grid altogether is preferred.

## Water

Water is the most difficult modern service to produce more than your demand. Usually the best option to get your own water is to dig a well on your property. This can be expensive but, where possible, is a great way to be self sufficient in collecting water.

This option is probably not even possible if you live in a suburban area. There is also the option of installing a rainwater harvesting system. The area of an average household in most of the US is sufficient to collect a significant amount of water. With a water tank to store the rainwater, you can take the rain that falls for a few months, weeks, or days per year, and make it last throughout the year.

You might have to change the landscaping of your yard and install low flow fixtures to create a lower water demand, but the normal demands of a household can usually be met. In those areas that do not receive enough rain to supply your household with the water that it needs, a few deliveries per year from a bulk water delivery company to refill your tanks will probably suffice.



## **Sewer**

Many homes and businesses use septic tanks rather than a connection to the sewer line. With a septic tank installed, you can hire a private service to pump it on a regular basis, rather than make regular payments to the city for sewer service.

## **Conclusion**

It is no longer necessary to give up most of the creature comforts that we take for granted in order to go off the grid. Adopting a lifestyle that uses less water and energy can make the process cheaper, but like *Survivorman*, I like to plug in my guitar sometimes. Expectations and needs of a modern household can now be met while still maintaining privacy from utility companies by going off the grid. More complete strategy for using off-grid living for privacy can be found if you get "*How To Vanish*" the book.