

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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Subject: Important Safety Concern

Crime Victims United of America recently made the District Attorney's Office aware of a new feature on the popular Internet browser Google which creates nationwide reverse telephone book.

This feature enables a person to quickly and easily obtain a map to a person's home if that person has a published telephone number. The District Attorney's Office is concerned that if a citizen gives out his/her phone number, someone can now quickly and easily look it up to find out where he/she lives, thus creating potential safety issues.

In an effort to educate the public, the District Attorney's Office wants to warn the community about this situation. District Attorney Christie Stanley stated, "The public needs to be aware that technology is making it easier for criminals to take advantage of others; however, by staying vigilant and taking proper precautions, the risk of becoming a victim of crime can be reduced."

In order to test whether your phone number is mapped, go to Google at www.google.com, type your phone number in the search bar (e.g., 555-555-1212) and press enter.

If you want to BLOCK Google from divulging your private information, simply click on your telephone number and then click on the Removal Form. Removal takes 48-hours.