

## Legal Authorities on the Original Purpose and Intent of Florida's Privacy Clause

### 1) **Florida Supreme Court** in the 1987 case of *Rasmussen v. South Florida Blood*

*"Although the general concept of privacy encompasses an enormously broad and diverse field of personal action and belief, there can be no doubt that the Florida amendment was intended to protect the right to determine whether or not sensitive information about oneself will be disclosed to others. The proceedings of the Constitution Revision Commission reveal that the right to informational privacy was a major concern of the amendment's drafters.*

*Thus, a principal aim of the constitutional provision is to afford individuals some protection against the increasing collection, retention, and use of information relating to all facets of an individual's life. Rasmussen v. South Florida Blood Service, Inc., 500 So.2d 533, 536 (Fla. 1987).*

### 2) **Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Ben F. Overton** on July 6, 1977, at the opening session of Florida's 1977-78 Constitution Revision Commission

*"[W]ho, ten years ago, really understood that personal and financial data on a substantial part of our population could be collected by government or business and held for easy distribution by computer operated information systems? There is a public concern about how personal information concerning an individual citizen is used, whether it be collected by government or by business. The subject of individual privacy and privacy law is in a developing stage.... It is a new problem that should probably be addressed."*

### 3) **Rep. Jon Mills**, D-Gainesville, the legislative sponsor of the privacy amendment Resolution

*"The goal is to provide individual and informational privacy. The bigger government gets, the more it tends to collect information on people. ... "Anybody [governmental bureaucracies] who wants information just throws it into forms," Mills said, adding businesses and homeowners are inundated with all sorts of official forms containing questions that are not the government's business. . . . Mills said he would expect courts to express a conservative view on the amendment's applicability. "Right to Privacy Amendment Debated," Florida Times-Union, October 26, 1980.*

### 4) **Center for Governmental Responsibility at University of Florida's Holland Law Center** said the purpose of the amendment is to require the State to justify the reasonableness of its intrusions upon informational privacy. A report prepared by the Center said, *"The impact of the privacy amendment would be to constrain the collection of information about individuals, and not limit public access to information properly collected."*