



## Releasing Security System Videos to Solve Crimes

The Florida Sheriffs Association supports legislation to fix a glitch that prevents law enforcement from releasing security system videos to other law enforcement agencies, their local state attorney's office for prosecution, and the media to help identify suspects. Law enforcement oftentimes release security system videos obtained from private or public security system cameras in order to solve crimes. For example, if a sheriff's office obtains a video from a store of an assault that occurred on its premises, the agency would then release a portion of the video to the media for assistance in identifying and locating the perpetrator.

Issues have now arisen from a recent 5th District Court of Appeal's decision holding that security system videos are confidential and exempt from disclosure. Florida must amend its public records laws in order to allow law enforcement officers to release these videos to news outlets as a means to identify suspects and for other official business.

This legislation allows video and audio recordings, which are confidential and exempt, to be disclosed:

- a. To the property owner or leaseholder;
- b. In furtherance of an agency's official duties and responsibilities;
- c. To another local, state, or federal agency if disclosure in furtherance of that agency's official duties and responsibilities; or
- d. Upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction.

It is currently a violation of state law if a member of law enforcement releases video and audio from a security system camera that is part of a security system plan. This legislation is vital to ensuring that video footage can be released as needed so that criminal investigations are not compromised, prosecutions of criminals may be successful, and public safety is not put at risk.

**Support HB 869 by Representative Harrison &  
SB 1004 by Senator Hays**

