**Privacy Statement & Online Use Disclaimer**

**INTERNET PRIVACY STATEMENT** - The Polk County Tax Collector's Office recognizes the importance of protecting the privacy of all information provided by users of our website(s), customers of online transactions and all other customers of our services. We created this policy with a fundamental respect for each individual website user's right to privacy. This Privacy Statement discloses the online privacy practices for the Tax Collector's Office.

**INFORMATION COLLECTION AND USE** - The Tax Collector's Office collects information from our website users and customers. We may collect or store information for statistical purposes. In this section of the Privacy Statement, we describe the type of information collected and how it is used to provide better customer service.

**DATA COLLECTION** - For services that require payment, we collect credit card information (such as account name, number, expiration date) and e-mail address, which is used by this office and/or our authorized agent for contact and billing purposes only, and is not otherwise shared or distributed to third-parties.

**AUTOMATIC DATA COLLECTION** - The Tax Collector's Office website has features that automatically collect information from customers, to deliver content specific to customers' interests and to honor their preferences. This information assists us in creating products and services that will serve the needs of our customers. We make every effort to maintain the privacy of data collected from visitors to our website subject to or as required by applicable law.

For example, we use "cookies," a piece of data stored on the user's hard drive containing information about the user. Cookies benefit the user by saving time while on our website. If users reject the cookies, they may be limited in the use of some areas of our website. The use of cookies enables our office to track and target the interests of users to enhance the experience on our website.

For our internal purposes, we gather date, time, browser type, navigation history and IP address of all visitors to our website. This information does not contain anything that can identify users personally. We use this information for our internal security audit log, trend analysis and system administration, and to gather broad demographic information about our user base for aggregate use.

Other than as set forth above, we make every effort to not share personally identifiable information with other companies; apart from those acting as our authorized agents in providing our product(s)/service(s), and which agree to use it only for that purpose and to keep the information secure and confidential. We will also disclose information we maintain when required to do so by law, for example, in response to an official public records request, a court order, a subpoena, in response to a law enforcement agency's request, or in special cases when we have reason to believe that disclosing this information is necessary to identify, contact or bring legal action against someone who may be causing injury to or interference with (either intentionally or unintentionally) our rights or government property. Users should also be aware that courts of equity, such as U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, might have the authority under certain circumstances to permit personal information to be shared or transferred to third parties without permission.

We may share aggregate information, which is not personally identifiable, with others. This information may include usage and demographic data, but it will not include personal information.

**SECURITY** - We use reasonable precautions to protect our customers' personal information and to store it securely. Sensitive information that is transmitted to us online (such as credit card number) is encrypted and is transmitted to us securely. In addition, access to all of our customers' information, not just the sensitive information mentioned above, is restricted. Only employees who need the information to perform a specific job (for example, a billing clerk or a customer service representative) are granted access to personally identifiable information. Finally, the servers on which we store personally identifiable information are kept in a secure environment.

**LINKS**- Links to other websites are provided on our website. The Tax Collector Office and/or its authorized agents are not responsible for the privacy practices or content of such other websites. We encourage our users to be aware when they leave our website and to read the privacy statements of each website to which we may link regarding their collection of personally identifiable information.

**NOTIFICATION and CHANGES** - If our Privacy Statement changes, we will post those changes on this page so our users are aware of what information is collected, how it is used and under which circumstances, if any, it is disclosed. Users should check this policy frequently to keep abreast of any changes.

**PRIVACY STATEMENT DISCLAIMER** - This content found on this website is for informational purposes only. The Tax Collector's Office makes efforts to provide the most accurate and timely information available, but does not guarantee the accuracy, timeliness, reliability, or completeness of any of the information found on, downloaded from, or accessed from this website.

The performance of this website and all information contained on, downloaded from, or accessed from this website are provided to you on an "as is" basis. The Tax Collector makes no representations or warranties as to the completeness or accuracy of information. In no event will the Tax Collector be responsible for damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use of or reliance upon information on this website.

**SOCIAL MEDIA DISCLAIMER** - The comments provided by the Tax Collector's Office Facebook/Twitter Friends or Fans are theirs alone and do not reflect the opinions of the Tax Collector's Office or any official or employee thereof. The Tax Collector's Office is not responsible for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any of the information supplied by its Facebook/Twitter Friends or Fans or for the content of any "off-site" websites or pages referenced from this site. Florida has a very broad public records law. As a result, any written communication created or received by Tax Collector's Office officials and employees will be made available to the public and media, upon request, unless otherwise exempt. If you do not want your post, comment and subsequent identifying information released in response to a public-records request, do not post.

**EMAIL DISCLAIMER** - Effective July 1, 2006, Florida law requires government websites to post the following disclaimer: E-mail addresses are public record under Florida Law and are not exempt from public-records requirements. If you do not want your e-mail address to be subject to being released pursuant to a public-records request do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by telephone or in writing, via the United States Postal Service.

**Note: Email addresses collected for tourist development tax administration and on behalf of the Property Appraiser for tangible personal property tax return administration are not subject to public disclosure.**

**For questions about this Privacy Statement, contact:**

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