



National Security Letters

Seven Things Every American Should Know

1. National Security Letters can be used by the FBI to obtain information about your banking, sites you visit on the Internet and your phone calls.
2. You do not need to be suspected of terrorism for the FBI to demand your records.
3. You will NOT be told if the FBI has used an NSL to obtain your records.
4. Even if an investigation clears you of any wrongdoing, the FBI retains your records indefinitely.
5. An Inspector General Report delivered to Congress found that there were 143,074 NSLs requested from 2003-2005.
6. Each NSL may demand hundreds or thousands of records of private information on Americans.
7. From the 143,074 NSLs requested, there was only 1 confirmed terrorism-related conviction.

National Security Letters were originally intended to monitor foreign agents suspected of espionage, and individuals suspected of terrorism.

One terrorism conviction out of 143,074 requests for NSLs shows that this tool is ineffective for fighting terrorism but is effective at collecting information about law abiding Americans.

Come learn more about NSLs and what you can do about them at: