

Tenants' personal data posted on Internet

by UPI

TORONTO - Canadian rights activists are questioning why a Toronto company lists personal information about tenants on a landlords' reference Web site.

The Toronto Star found "intimate details" about 1,393 tenants on the site maintained by Landlord's Source Center that included references to one tenant who "is diagnosed with depression" and "is known for abusing substances."

Apart from Social Insurance numbers and other personal information, the database also lists children's names and ages, income and spending, bankruptcy history and any landlord-tenant disputes, the newspaper said.

Company operations officer Jennifer Smith told the Star by telephone no such database exists, although reporters later accessed it and viewed the information. Afterward, she didn't respond to calls or e-mail, the newspaper said.

Geordie Dent, director of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, told the newspaper such information should never be posted on the Internet.

"There are questions around identity theft. There are personal information and privacy issues," Dent said.

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