



# SHERIFF

## SEMINOLE COUNTY

## PRESS RELEASE

### Geo-Tagging Safety Message

Geo-tagging is the process of adding geographic identification metadata to media such as photographs and videos. Which means when you post photos they are being encoded with the date, time of day, and *latitude and longitude tags*. It is opening the door to more of your personal information than you realize.

So exactly what is the risk? Even if the information is posted on an anonymous social media account like Facebook or Twitter, it is possible to research the hidden data and pinpoint where the photos were taken to find an address. It may not be an issue for a picture taken in public places, but if you are taking pictures at your home or work, that information may not be something you want accessed.

You can protect yourself by turning off the GPS feature while taking pictures. This is often accomplished by looking at the Options menu for Location, GPS, or the camera Application. When you are not taking pictures you can turn the function back on if you want to use a phone's GPS feature. Another way is to download *disabling software* to your smart phone that will find geo-tagging information and delete it before sending.

To protect your **Facebook** photos from friends who might want to disclose your location to others.

- Go to your Facebook account.
- Click "**Account**" in the top right corner.
- Click "**Privacy Settings**."
- In the "**Sharing on Facebook**" section, click "**Customize settings**."
- Scroll down to "**Things others share**" and make the option next to "**Friends can check me into Places**" read "**Disabled**."

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