



## ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSSEN

### APPLE, GOOGLE ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT SMARTPHONE TRACKING

*For immediate release*

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HARTFORD – Concerned that consumer locations are being tracked without their permission, Attorney General George Jepsen is asking Apple Inc. and Google Inc. to disclose whether or not its communication devices collect this information and if so, why.

Jepsen sent letters to both companies Tuesday, prompted by published reports that said Apple's iOS4 software tracks consumers' locations and stores that data in a file hidden on iPhones and iPads, and that Google's Android smartphone tracks users' locations and transmits that data to Google.

"I am particularly troubled by the apparent lack of clear and conspicuous disclosures regarding these practices and failure to request authorization from users," Jepsen wrote in both letters.

The companies were asked to disclose whether or not they had "ever collected, or inserted into any of its products, technology that would allow it to collect location information or data from consumer devices."

If so, the companies were asked to provide information about the devices that collect the data; the date those devices were put into use; the type and the amount of information collected; an explanation about why the information was collected and the steps the companies have taken to protect it from disclosure.

Jepsen also asked whether the company had "obtained express authorizations from Connecticut consumers ... to collect or compile this information" and he requested detailed information on how consumers could turn off, or disable, the location-collection feature if they wished.

"Consumers, who have a reasonable expectation of privacy in their day to day lives, are finding their privacy increasingly under attack," Jepsen said. "While they can voluntarily give up their privacy, it should not be taken from them without their permission."

Assistant Attorney General Matthew Fitzsimmons is representing Jepsen in this matter.

View the letter to [Apple](#) – (PDF-492KB)    View the letter to [Google](#) – (PDF-472KB)

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