From the SelectedWorks of James T Struck

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A Problem with the Federal Education Records Privacy Act- Educational privacy can be taken too far; degrees can be used to persecute persons and violate the rights of persons using the degrees and the significance we attach to degrees.

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A Problem with the Federal Education Records Privacy Act—Educational privacy can be taken too far; degrees can be used to persecute persons and violate the rights of persons using the degrees and the significance we attach to degrees.

Educational privacy can have consequences of people using degrees to violate the rights of persons to make money for Counties, government, lawyers, states, parties and nations.

From a Department of Education summary of FERPA, “Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student’s education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

School officials with legitimate educational interest;

Other schools to which a student is transferring;

Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;

Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;

Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;

Accrediting organizations;

To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;

Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Looking at the text or summary of FERPA, it seems that persons can say they got PHD’s, JD’s, MBA’s, TH.D’s, PHarm D.’s, BS’s, BA’s, MD’s, MSW’s, other degrees without actually attending schools. In my current situation, people saying they got JD’s and MSW’s are limiting my parent’s rights to fresh air, consent, fresh air from second hand smoking, visitation, phone use, coming home, going to religious services, going to dentist, going outside, getting mail, getting medical records, and knowing where family is. County employees use their MSW’s and JD’s to restrict the rights of over 800 people in Cook County. Without court orders or without being a governmental official, persons can say they obtained degrees without really obtaining degrees. Subpoena’s need to be obtained before someone can check the record of students. Educational privacy can be taken too far; degrees can be used to persecute persons and violate the rights of persons using the degrees and the significance we attach to degrees.

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