

## REVERSE WARRANTS

**Reverse warrants – also known as keyword or location warrants – are a form of invasive digital surveillance that put people at risk. Law enforcement can use these warrants to force companies to reveal who has searched for a specific word or phrase on their computers or cell phones, or who was in a certain area at a particular time.**

### THE PROBLEM

Warrants are supposed to be narrow, specific, and based on probable cause. Reverse warrants are the opposite – they allow the government to do widespread surveillance on everyone within a geographic area and/or timeframe, which violates the Fourth Amendment. The government can force tech companies such as Google to reveal our personal data based on words or phrases in search engines or our cell phone location data.

- Reverse warrants subject large groups of innocent people to scrutiny by law enforcement.
- While reverse warrants threaten everyone’s privacy, they can wrongly put innocent and vulnerable people including Black and Brown communities, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ people and low-income people in police crosshairs.
- Someone could become a suspect by simply driving home from work near the area where a crime was committed.
- The warrants weaponize our intimate data against us. By reviewing private web searches, the government can gather deeply private information about our medical conditions, finances, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs. Police can identify people seeking abortions or gender-affirming care.
- Judges are meant to act as a firewall when reviewing a digital warrant but often don’t fully understand the technology or how broad the scope of a reverse warrant is.
- People should not have to fear that the government is peering over their shoulders into their personal lives while on their phones or computers.

### THE SOLUTION

The ACLU-MN supports a bill to ban reverse warrants.