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## **Lawsuit Alleges Grindr Sold User Info Including Sexual Orientation and Location**

*Grindr allegedly sold a prominent Catholic priest's sensitive personal information, causing him to lose his position as the general secretariat for the National Conference of U.S. bishops.*

**LOS ANGELES, CA — July 18, 2024** — Jeffrey Burrill, a priest and the former general secretariat for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has filed a lawsuit in California state court against Grindr LLC, alleging the gay dating app sold his sensitive personal information, resulting in his public “outing” and subsequent resignation. Mr. Burrill seeks damages for Grindr’s failure to protect user privacy and its intentional and reckless handling of personal data.

### **Allegations and Timeline**

Mr. Burrill asserts that despite Grindr’s assurances of safeguarding personal data, the company failed to protect his information. Between 2017 and 2021, Mr. Burrill’s data—including details about his sexual orientation and physical location—was sold to the Catholic Laity and Clergy for Renewal. This group provided his information to a Catholic news site, The Pillar, which in July 2021 published an article revealing Mr. Burrill’s sexual orientation without his consent while making false and defamatory claims about him. Mr. Burrill contends this article destroyed his reputation and forced him out of his position as general secretary.

### **Legal Claims**

The lawsuit accuses Grindr of unfair, deceptive, and unlawful business practices under California’s Consumer Legal Remedies Act and Unfair Competition Law, as well as fraud and deceit. Mr. Burrill contends that Grindr misled users by not disclosing that their sensitive data could be sold and de-anonymized. Mr. Burrill further argues that Grindr prioritized profits over user privacy, a claim bolstered by Grindr’s former Chief Privacy Officer Ronald de Jesus’s 2023 lawsuit alleging similar practices.

### **Calls for Accountability and Protection**

"Grindr subscribers have no idea that their sensitive information is being sold and re-sold through opaque commercial exchanges, where their information is being purchased by third parties variously known as “data brokers” or “information resellers,” said Greg Helmer of Helmer Friedman LLP. “Grindr does not warn its users that their sensitive user information will be made ‘commercially available.’”

## Ongoing Issues and Broader Implications

Mr. Burrill's legal team stresses the broader implications for consumers using subscription services like Grindr. According to Helmer, "What happened to Mr. Burrill is an outrage and should serve as a stark warning to consumers using dating or other subscription apps that their personal information will be sold and may be disclosed to the public. Consumers deserve transparency and security, especially when dealing with such private information."

## About Helmer Friedman LLP

Helmer Friedman LLP is dedicated to advocating for consumer rights and ensuring corporate accountability. With a proven track record in handling complex legal cases involving consumer protection, employment law, and civil rights, the firm provides aggressive and innovative representation to safeguard clients' rights.

## Contact Information

For more information, visit: <https://www.helmerfriedman.com/lawsuit-alleges-grindr-sold-user-info-including-sexual-orientation-and-location/>

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