What does "data encryption" mean?

A Security Method
It is a tool used to protect digital data stored on computer systems.

Limiting Access
Data encryption prevents documents, e-mail messages, text messages, etc. from being accessed by outside and/or unauthorized users.

Encoding & Decryption
Data is encoded (scrambled or made unreadable) and can only be accessed or decrypted (unscrambled or made readable) by a user with the correct encryption key.

Important for DV/SA Survivors
It is a particularly important issue to consider when storing client-level data on an agency's computer system/network.