



# RISK ALERT

## February 9, 2023

### TCRMF Risk Alert - Governor Bans TikTok

Late last year Governor Abbot banned the use of TikTok on all government owned devices and devices owned by contractors doing work for the state. As part of the executive order Abbot directed the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Information Resources to issue a plan for “providing state agencies guidance on managing personal devices they use to conduct state business.” The plan is contained in a “Model Security Plan for Prohibited Technologies” that is dated January 26, 2023 but was only issued on February 6. The directive applies to community centers and “Prohibits employees or contractors from conducting state business on prohibited technology enabled devices.” Another provision of the plan requires agencies to “identify sensitive locations, meetings or personnel within an agency that could be exposed to prohibited technology enabled devices. Prohibited technology enabled personal devices must be prohibited from entering or being used in sensitive areas.” According to the model plan, each agency has until February 15 to report its plan to the Department of Public Safety on their Spectrim portal.

With the impossibly short amount of time to comply with the order, the Fund recommends that a center issue a policy prohibiting TikTok (and several other applications) on any center owned cell phones and requiring any employees who use personal devices in center business to remove TikTok. Vendors and contractors should also be required to conform to the policy. A list of other prohibited applications is found in the DIR link shown below and in the Model Plan.

Pam Beach and other center attorneys are monitoring this new requirement and will keep you apprised of developments. Additional information may be available

through the Department of Information Resources at <https://dir.texas.gov/information-security/prohibited-technologies>.

You can download the Model Plan from the Fund website at [www.tcrmf.org](http://www.tcrmf.org).

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