

MFA PRIVACY & DATA PROTECTION SERVICES

Today's companies are faced with increased market and regulatory pressure when it comes to the safeguarding of personal information. Recent security breaches at major companies have fast-tracked legislative efforts in many states and while exact privacy and data protection requirements vary from state to state, the bottom line for companies that own, license, store or maintain personal information is mandated compliance with increasingly rigorous data security standards.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recently enacted what is viewed as some of the toughest data security standards in the country. The requirements for compliance are complex, quite strict and extend far beyond just local businesses. What's important to understand about the new Massachusetts law is that you don't need to have a presence in the state of Massachusetts for these regulations to apply to your company. Merely employing a resident of Massachusetts will most likely require you to comply.

SPECTRUM OF SERVICES

- Massachusetts Data Security Law: Compliance Advisory & Implementation Support
- Information Privacy Programs: Review & Assessment
- Standards & Policy Guidance
- Documentation of Information Privacy Programs
- Actionable Recommendations for Mitigating Risk
- Risk Remediation Support
- Compliance Maintenance

Highlights of the Massachusetts Requirements for Protecting Personal Information

Massachusetts recently enacted legislation – 201 CMR 17.00 – requiring any individual or company maintaining personal records of Massachusetts citizens to undertake significant precautions in protecting this information in order to minimize the chance of “data leakage”.

The effective date for full compliance with the regulations is January 1, 2010. On this date, applicable individuals and businesses must have a written information security program (WISP) in place that includes effective administrative, technical and physical safeguards for the protection of personal information belonging to residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Failure to comply will result in significant penalties.

DEEP INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IS) & BUSINESS PROCESS KNOWLEDGE.

Whether you need an independent assessment of your organization's existing information privacy program, or are in need of qualified professionals to help with scoping, documentation, and process testing efforts, MFA's IT Advisory Practice can provide the hands-on assistance you need to help you to ensure your organization is equipped with a comprehensive and effective privacy and data protection program. Our IS and business process professionals have the highest level of skills and credentials including, among others, professionals who are Accredited Systems Engineers (ASE), Certified Information Systems Auditors (CISA), and Certified Internal Auditors (CIA.)

BIG PICTURE, BOTTOM LINE APPROACH. MFA takes a big picture, bottom line approach to compliance and the safeguarding of personal and confidential information, providing a comprehensive source for regulatory, technical and operational guidance. Our approach provides the basis for developing effective information privacy solutions that allow our clients to effectively manage the complexities involved in meeting regulatory compliance.

Review & Assessment - As a first step toward compliance, we provide clients with an evaluation of their existing information privacy programs, detailing where they stand in relation to industry best practices and regulatory requirements. We identify gaps between current policies and regulatory rules as well as help to create and document policies and procedures using a risk-based approach. In addition, we assist our clients in converting imprecise mandates into concrete policies through an effective information privacy framework.





act with
confidence

Actionable Recommendations - MFA's team of professionals applies established principles and best practices in efficient and innovative ways. Our deliverables document the results of our assessment effort and provide our clients with specific recommendations for mitigating the identified risks and improving the overall effectiveness of their information privacy programs. We highlight effective controls, identify potential areas of weakness and provide management with reliable performance indicators to help them ensure successful ongoing compliance with regulatory requirements for the protection of personal and confidential information.

Remediation Support - We prioritize our recommendations for mitigating identified risks and develop a detailed remediation plan to help our clients to achieve their desired information privacy objectives to meet regulatory deadlines. Our team of IT and business process professionals has significant experience designing and implementing technology systems and can augment our clients' teams to assist in their efforts to develop information privacy solutions for their organization.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MFA'S PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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ABOUT MFA CORNERSTONE CONSULTING

At **MFA Cornerstone Consulting, LLC**, we provide proven, pragmatic business advice that enables our clients to better understand and strengthen their organization. Through our Performance & Controls, IT Advisory, Valuation, and Litigation Support Practices, we help clients optimize performance, control risk, and appropriately assess the value of their enterprise. MFA Cornerstone Consulting, LLC is a subsidiary of *MFA - Moody, Famiglietti & Andronico, LLP*.

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