

City of Joshua Personnel Policies and Procedures

Section 2: Federal and State Employment Laws and Regulations

2.5 Covered Applications and Prohibited Technology

Origination October 17, 2024

On December 7, 2022, Governor Greg Abbott required all state agencies to ban the video-sharing application TikTok from all state-owned and state-issued devices and networks over the Chinese Communist Party's ability to use the application for surveilling Texans. Following the issuance of the Governor's directive, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1893, which prohibits the use of covered applications on city-owned or leased devices.

1. Scope and Definitions

This policy applies to all City of Joshua full- and part-time employees, contractors, paid or unpaid interns, volunteers, and other users of city networks. All City of Joshua employees are responsible for complying with this policy.

A covered application is:

- The social media service TikTok or any successor application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Limited, or an entity owned by ByteDance Limited.
- A social media application or service specified by the governor's proclamation under Government Code Section 620.005.

2. Covered Applications on City-Owned or Leased Devices

Except where approved exceptions apply, the use or installation of covered applications is prohibited on all city-owned or leased devices, including cell phones, tablets, desktop and laptop computers, and other internet-capable devices.

The City of Joshua will identify, track, and manage all city-owned or leased devices, including mobile phones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers, or any other internet-capable devices to:

- Prohibit the installation of a covered application.
- Prohibit the use of a covered application.
- Remove a covered application from a city-owned or leased device that was on the device prior to the passage of S.B. 1893 (88th Leg, R.S.).

- Remove an application from a city-owned or leased device if the Governor issues a proclamation identifying it as a covered application.

The City of Joshua will manage all city-owned or leased devices by implementing the security measures listed below:

- The city will educate employees on the policy change.
- The city will conduct random device checks until a Mobile Device Management “MDM” system can be established.

3. Ongoing and Emerging Technology Threats

To provide protection against ongoing and emerging technological threats to the city’s sensitive information and critical infrastructure, DPS and DIR will regularly monitor and evaluate additional social media applications or services that pose a risk to this state.

DIR will annually submit to the Governor a list of social media applications and services identified as posing a risk to Texas. The Governor may proclaim items on this list as covered applications that are subject to this policy.

If the Governor identifies an item on the DIR-posted list described by this section, then the City of Joshua will remove and prohibit the covered application.

The City of Joshua may also prohibit social media applications or services in addition to those specified by the Governor's proclamation.

4. Covered Application Exceptions

The City of Joshua may permit exceptions authorizing the installation and use of a covered application on city-owned or leased devices consistent with the authority provided by Government Code Chapter 620.

Government Code Section 620.004 only allows the City of Joshua to install and use a covered application on an applicable device to the extent necessary for:

- Providing law enforcement; or
- Developing or implementing information security measures.

If the City of Joshua authorizes an exception allowing for the installation and use of a covered application, the City of Joshua must use measures to mitigate the risks posed to the state during the application's use. Such use must receive prior approval from the City Manager.

The City of Joshua must document whichever measures it took to mitigate the risks posed to the state during the use of the covered application.

B. Policy Compliance

The City of Joshua will verify compliance with this policy through various methods, including but not limited to IT/security system reports and feedback to leadership.

An employee found to have violated this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

C. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in state law, additions to applications identified under Government Code Section 620.006, updates to the prohibited technology list posted to DIR's website, or to suit the needs of the City of Joshua.