

FCC Media Contact:
MediaRelations@fcc.gov

CPPA Media Contact:
press@cppa.ca.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH CALIFORNIA PRIVACY PROTECTION AGENCY

Privacy and Data Protection Task Force Will Lead Agency's Coordination with CPPA on Consumer Privacy and Data Protection

WASHINGTON, October 29, 2024—The FCC's Privacy and Data Protection Task Force today announced a new Memorandum of Understanding with the California Privacy Protection Agency. Unlike state Attorneys General offices, which are responsible for enforcing all state laws and regulations, the CPPA is dedicated exclusively to protecting consumers' privacy rights. This singular focus allows the agency to be at the forefront of privacy regulation. Additionally, while state Attorneys General primarily operate within the realm of law enforcement, the CPPA wields both rulemaking and enforcement powers, allowing it to take a comprehensive approach to data privacy regulation. The FCC's partnership with this unique state agency, tasked with enforcing the California Consumer Privacy Act, as amended by the California Privacy Rights Act, will ensure both agencies can align their efforts to best protect consumer privacy, ensure businesses and consumers are well-informed about their rights and obligations, and enforce privacy laws.

What's New?

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau, which leads the Commission's Privacy and Data Protection Task Force, and the California Privacy Protection Agency have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding, establishing a federal-state partnership on privacy, data protection, and cybersecurity enforcement matters. Through this partnership, the agencies can share expertise, resources, and coordinate efforts in conducting investigations to protect consumers.

The MOU affirms that the FCC and CPPA "share close and common legal interests in working cooperatively to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute or otherwise take enforcement action in relation to privacy, data protection, or cybersecurity issues." Coordinated action and information sharing will take place pursuant to applicable federal and state laws and privacy protections.

Federal and State Leaders

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said: "Consumers expect their privacy to be protected. The data they share with companies or transmit on networks are too often targeted by bad actors or mishandled. Coordinated state and federal partnerships like this are essential to our privacy work."

FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Loyaan A. Egal said: “Protecting the digital privacy and data of nearly 40 million Americans located in California is vitally important. Together, CPPA and FCC policy makers and enforcers can ensure that federal and state protections are coordinated and maximized for the benefit of everyone across the state.”

California Privacy Protection Agency Executive Director Ashkan Soltani said: “Privacy is a necessary foundation for innovation in today’s connected world. We’re excited to partner with the FCC’s Privacy and Data Task Force to help increase trust and security in the digital marketplace.”

California Privacy Protection Agency Head of Enforcement Michael Macko said: “The CPPA’s Enforcement Division welcomes this collaboration with the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau, because collaboration is key to vigorous enforcement. We’re stronger when we combat privacy harms together.”

Power of Partnerships

The FCC’s Enforcement Bureau has privacy and data protection partnerships with the Attorneys General of Connecticut, Illinois, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Delaware, and Indiana.

During investigations, both the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau and state investigators seek records, talk to witnesses, interview targets, examine consumer complaints, confer with experts, and take other critical steps to build a record against possible threat actors. These privacy and data protection partnerships provide critical resources for building cases and coordinating efforts to protect consumers and businesses nationwide.

The state agencies and Attorney General offices leverage years of expertise, both investigative and technical. The FCC offers partner states not only the expertise of its enforcement staff, but also important resources and remedies to support state investigations. For example, the MOUs facilitate relationships with other authorities in this space, including other federal agencies, and provide support for and expertise with critical investigative tools including subpoenas and confidential response letters from suspected targets. The FCC’s unique position and authorities have allowed the Commission to work with state partners to obtain measurable results in the robocalling space to scale efforts to protect consumers.

FCC’s Privacy and Data Protection Task Force

To lead and coordinate this important work, Chairwoman Rosenworcel created the [Privacy and Data Protection Task Force](#) to work on privacy and data protection issues subject to the Commission’s authority under the Communications Act. The Task Force coordinates across the agency on the rulemaking, enforcement, and public awareness needs regarding privacy and data protection activities, including threats like SIM swapping scams, port-out fraud, and data breaches, which can increase the risk posed by these scams by exposing consumers’ information that can make it easier for scammers to steal consumers cell phone accounts. The FCC also secured “Consumer Privacy Upgrades” covering beneficial data protection, cybersecurity, and consumer privacy terms with all of the largest wireless carriers, including September 2024 settlements with [T-Mobile](#) and [AT&T](#), and a July 2024 settlement with [Verizon on behalf of TracFone](#).

###

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*