SmartSuite

Framework / Data Protection & Privacy / Global Privacy Regulations

Colorado Privacy Act (CPA) — C.R.S. § 6-1-1301 et seq.

The Colorado Privacy Act establishes consumer privacy rights and requires organizations to protect and manage Colorado residents' personal data.



What it is

The Colorado Privacy Act (CPA) is a state-level privacy regulation that helps organizations safeguard the personal data of Colorado residents and enhance transparency in data processing activities. Its primary purpose is to establish consumer rights, promote responsible data handling, and require organizations to manage and protect sensitive information.

Enacted by the Colorado General Assembly, the CPA applies to entities conducting business in Colorado or delivering products or services to state residents, provided they process data above specified thresholds. The regulation covers key areas such as consumer data protection, privacy governance, data subject rights, risk management, and regulatory compliance. It draws on principles found in other privacy laws like the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

At a glance

PUBLISHER Colorado General Assembly	TYPE Regulation	VERSION Colorado Privacy Act (SB21-190)
EFFECTIVE July 1, 2023	DOMAIN Data Protection & Privacy	FAMILY Global Privacy Regulations
REGION Colorado	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY Moderate

Source: https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2021a_190_signed.pdf

Why it matters

- **Enhance consumer trust** Demonstrate transparent data processing and safeguard individual privacy, building trusted relationships with customers and stakeholders.
- **Support regulatory compliance** Address state privacy mandates efficiently, reducing the risk of penalties and investigations from non-compliance.
- **Empower consumer rights management** Provide clear processes to recognize, respond to, and fulfill data subject rights, improving service transparency and accountability.
- **Strengthen data protection practices** Implement security controls and governance policies to minimize unauthorized access and protect sensitive consumer information.

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How SmartSuite supports CPA (CO)

Processing Inventory and Purpose Documentation

Track data categories, purposes, sharing, and retention across systems.

Consumer Rights Request Workflows

Manage access, deletion, correction, portability, and opt-out requests end-to-end.

Data Protection Assessments

Run assessments for higher-risk processing and track mitigations and approvals.

Processor and Vendor Oversight

Manage processor contracts, safeguards, and monitoring evidence.

Security and Incident Alignment

Track safeguards and incident handling evidence tied to personal data risks.

Accountability Reporting

Report compliance status, request metrics, and open actions across teams.

Common framework mappings

LGPD | CCPA/CPRA | GDPR | ISO 27001:2022 | ISO 27701 | NIST Privacy Framework v1.0 | PIPEDA | UK GDPR

Official resources

Colorado Privacy Act Text

Provides the official legal text of the Colorado Privacy Act from the Colorado General Assembly.

leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2021a_190_signed.pdf

Colorado Privacy Act Overview

Describes the structure and key requirements of the Colorado Privacy Act.

coag.gov/resources/colorado-privacy-act

Colorado Attorney General CPA Compliance Guide

Outlines compliance guidelines for businesses under the Colorado Privacy Act.

coag.gov/resources/colorado-privacy-act

Colorado Privacy Act Consumer Rights

Defines the rights granted to consumers under the CPA.

coag.gov/resources/colorado-privacy-act

Frequently asked questions

What is the Colorado Privacy Act (CPA) used for?

The Colorado Privacy Act is designed to protect the personal data of Colorado residents by granting consumer rights, enhancing transparency in data processing, and establishing clear obligations for entities that collect and handle personal information. Its primary goal is to promote responsible data practices and strengthen security safeguards throughout the information lifecycle.

Is compliance with the Colorado Privacy Act required or certifiable?

Compliance with the CPA is mandatory for covered entities, but there is currently no official certification process. Organizations must demonstrate ongoing compliance by aligning internal policies and procedures with CPA requirements and maintaining appropriate documentation for auditing purposes.

Who does the Colorado Privacy Act apply to?

The CPA applies to organizations conducting business in Colorado or offering products or services to its residents, provided they process the personal data of 100,000 or more consumers annually, or derive revenue from the sale of personal data of at least 25,000 consumers. Non-profit organizations and certain sector-specific data are exempt.

What key concepts and artifacts does the CPA require?

The CPA introduces terms like “controller,” “processor,” “personal data,” and “sensitive data,” and requires organizations to establish privacy notices, data protection assessments (DPIAs), consumer rights request mechanisms, and risk management documentation. Vendors serving as processors must also have contractual obligations clearly outlined.

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How do organizations implement Colorado Privacy Act requirements?

Implementation typically involves data mapping, updating privacy notices, enabling and responding to consumer rights requests, conducting DPIAs, and applying risk-based security controls. Regular employee training and vendor management reviews are also critical to integrating CPA requirements with existing privacy and security programs.

How does the CPA relate to other frameworks like CCPA and GDPR?

While the CPA shares similarities with the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), such as granting consumer rights and imposing controller/processor obligations, it has unique data thresholds and assessment requirements. Organizations operating across multiple jurisdictions often harmonize CPA controls with global privacy frameworks to streamline compliance.

What are the ongoing compliance obligations under the CPA?

Entities must maintain up-to-date documentation, perform regular privacy risk and data protection impact assessments, respond timely to consumer requests, monitor vendor compliance, and implement incident response and breach notification procedures. Continuous improvement of privacy and security controls is essential for ongoing CPA compliance.

How would SmartSuite support Colorado Privacy Act (CPA)?

SmartSuite enables organizations to operationalize CPA requirements by providing control libraries mapped to legal obligations, risk registers for managing DPIAs, centralized evidence collection, and automated compliance tracking. The platform supports audit readiness with reporting dashboards, remediation workflows, and ongoing visibility into risk and control effectiveness, streamlining CPA compliance for privacy and security teams.

License included / downloadable: Yes The Colorado Privacy Act is state legislation and is publicly available through official Colorado government publications.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/colorado-privacy-act-cpa

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