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Temple Topics

Electronic Data: Safety and Privacy

In our technology hungry culture, gadgets and devices transform our day-to-day lives. We obtain and store electronic information on a frequent basis. However, in the event of a breach, does your institution have an electronic management and security plan in place? If not, it may be time to consider a plan of protection against data breach and the potential legal ramifications associated with such a breach.

Concerns

Illegal and wrongful acquisition of information can be obtained in a number of ways. For example, a stolen computer or hacked account can provide access to financial information, volunteer and employee records, private counseling matters and/or personal health information of ailing congregation members. With this information, a thief can obtain bank account numbers, employee social security numbers and personal information about congregation members. The information can then be used to drain bank accounts and steal identities.

Ramifications

Many industries have privacy laws in place which mandate them to implement specific privacy practices into their daily operations. However, religious institutions do not have the same mandatory regulations. They may, however, be subject to the consequences of illegal or wrongfully obtained information. A legal expert should be able to explain what legal ramifications would apply to a religious institution who has suffered a data breach. They may also be able to advise how best to proceed in the event of a breach or other violation.

Security, Prevention & Protection

It is important to safeguard against such theft. Be vigilant in pursuing options such as:

- Utilize firewalls, spyware, password protection and encryption options
- Be careful accessing information in unsecured WIFI locations.
- Limit access to confidential passwords and safety controls.
- Do not leave electronic devices logged-in, unattended or in an unsecure area.
- Investigate the value of insurance coverage options such as Computer Fraud Coverage, Electronic Data Coverage and Cyber Liability Coverage.

Please contact us for available Electronic Data Safety and Privacy related coverage options.

For a complete report on Temple safety, outlining ways you can protect your Temple, please call us at 1-800 BERKETT. We are a leader in providing insurance services to Temples. We are here to help.