

*Can we install monitoring software on the computers in our municipal offices?*

Not unless you have received specific, written authorization from your employees that they are aware of the monitoring. The U.S. Electronic Communications Privacy Act prohibits interception and disclosure of electronic communications, unless employees who use town computers have signed off in writing that they are aware that such software is installed on their computers and that they will or may be monitored. The employees do not have a right to prevent the town from installing the software, but they do need to be made aware that it is in fact occurring. 18 U.S.C. §§ 2511 et seq.

*- Brian Monaghan, VLCT Staff Attorney*

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