



# WeChat vs State Grid Corporation of China lawsuit

Does WeChat violate California law?

Citizen Power Initiatives for China ("CPIFC") filed a lawsuit today in the Superior Court for the State of California, Santa Clara County, alleging that the censorship and surveillance practices and policies of WeChat, the dominant social media and payments application in the Chinese-speaking world, violates numerous aspects of California law.

Why did WeChat users Sue Tencent?

The suit urges a state court to order WeChat parent company Tencent to change its ways and pay damages. PHOTO: AFP SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - California WeChat users sued its parent company Tencent on Wednesday (Jan 20), saying the mobile app is used for spying on and censoring users for the Chinese government.

Are WeChat users being censored in California?

There has been some recent reporting on a new lawsuit filed in the Superior Court of California in Santa Clara County related to alleged censorship and surveillance of U.S. users on WeChat. Jeanne Whalen of the Washington Post ("California plaintiffs sue Chinese tech giant Tencent, alleging WeChat app is censoring and surveilling them") explains:

Will Tencent investigate WeChat Youth Mode lawsuit?

Tencent said it would "investigate" the claim. "We will earnestly inspect and check the functions of WeChat Youth Mode, accept user suggestions humbly and sincerely respond to civil public-interest litigation," the company posted on Weibo. WeChat, known as Weixin in China, has about 1.26 billion monthly active users.

Did WeChat 'Youth Mode' break Chinese law?

The lawsuit was initiated by Beijing's Haidian District People's Procuratorate against Shenzhen Tencent Computer Systems Co Ltd, according to a filing posted on JCRB.com, a website run by China's top prosecutor. The document did not say how WeChat's "youth mode" broke Chinese law.

Does WeChat's Youth Mode violate the law?

When WeChat is used in youth mode, it restricts younger users' access to functions like mobile payments, as well as certain games. The suit doesn't specify how the app's youth mode violates the law, according to Reuters, but the action comes a few days after a state-owned Chinese newspaper referred to online games as "opium for the mind."

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