PASSWORDS AND SIGN-IN METHODS: SIGN-IN METHODS POLICY

# All clients

Harbour IT

| PREPARED BY | DATE | CLIENTS |
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How people sign in and how strong that is: methods by strength, admins without phishing-resistant MFA, the methods policy, and password age and expiry.

## Sign-in methods policy 36

Which methods people may register and use, from the tenant's authentication methods policy, against what's recommended for a small business.

| Flag | Client | Setting | Current | Recommended | Why |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Passkeys and security keys (FIDO2) | On for Break glass | On | Needed for phishing-resistant sign-in, which admins should use. |
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Microsoft Authenticator | On for All users | On | The second factor most people should use. |
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Authenticator shows which app is signing in | Microsoft managed | On (Microsoft managed turns it on) | Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs. |
| Low | Contoso Legal LLP | Authenticator shows where the sign-in is from | Off | On (Microsoft managed turns it on) | Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs. |
| Low | Contoso Legal LLP | Text message (SMS) | On for All users except Break glass | Off, once people use Authenticator | Texts can be intercepted or moved to another SIM. |
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Voice call | Off | Off | Calls can be redirected, and are easy to approve by mistake. |
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Email one-time passcode | On for All users | Off, unless guests or password reset need it | Not a second factor for members; only for password reset and guests. |
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Temporary Access Pass | Off | On, for setting up passkeys | A time-limited pass for setting up a new phone or passkey. |
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Registration campaign (asks people to set up Authenticator at sign-in) | Microsoft managed, for All users, can be skipped for 1 day | On, or Microsoft managed | Moves people off text messages and calls. |
| Low | Contoso Legal LLP | System-preferred MFA (asks for the strongest method a person has) | Off | On, or Microsoft managed | Otherwise people are asked for their own default, often a text message. |

| Flag | Client | Setting | Current | Recommended | Why |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Contoso Legal LLP | People can report an MFA prompt they didn't expect | Microsoft managed | On | A reported prompt blocks the account's risky sign-ins and alerts admins. |
| | Contoso Legal LLP | Methods managed in this policy (not the old MFA and SSPR settings) | Yes | Yes | Microsoft has retired the old per-user MFA and SSPR method settings. |
| | Fabrikam Dental Group | Passkeys and security keys (FIDO2) | On for Break glass | On | Needed for phishing-resistant sign-in, which admins should use. |
| | Fabrikam Dental Group | Microsoft Authenticator | On for All users | On | The second factor most people should use. |
| | Fabrikam Dental Group | Authenticator shows which app is signing in | Microsoft managed | On (Microsoft managed turns it on) | Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs. |
| ● Low | Fabrikam Dental Group | Authenticator shows where the sign-in is from | Off | On (Microsoft managed turns it on) | Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs. |
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| | Fabrikam Dental Group | People can report an MFA prompt they didn't expect | Microsoft managed | On | A reported prompt blocks the account's risky sign-ins and alerts admins. |
| | Fabrikam Dental Group | Methods managed in this policy (not the old MFA and SSPR settings) | Yes | Yes | Microsoft has retired the old per-user MFA and SSPR method settings. |

| Flag | Client | Setting | Current | Recommended | Why |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Northwind Traders | Passkeys and security keys (FIDO2) | On for Break glass | On | Needed for phishing-resistant sign-in, which admins should use. |
| | Northwind Traders | Microsoft Authenticator | On for All users | On | The second factor most people should use. |
| | Northwind Traders | Authenticator shows which app is signing in | Microsoft managed | On (Microsoft managed turns it on) | Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs. |
| Low | Northwind Traders | Authenticator shows where the sign-in is from | Off | On (Microsoft managed turns it on) | Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs. |
| Low | Northwind Traders | Text message (SMS) | On for All users except Break glass | Off, once people use Authenticator | Texts can be intercepted or moved to another SIM. |
| | Northwind Traders | Voice call | Off | Off | Calls can be redirected, and are easy to approve by mistake. |
| | Northwind Traders | Email one-time passcode | On for All users | Off, unless guests or password reset need it | Not a second factor for members; only for password reset and guests. |
| | Northwind Traders | Temporary Access Pass | Off | On, for setting up passkeys | A time-limited pass for setting up a new phone or passkey. |
| | Northwind Traders | Registration campaign (asks people to set up Authenticator at sign-in) | Microsoft managed, for All users, can be skipped for 1 day | On, or Microsoft managed | Moves people off text messages and calls. |
| Low | Northwind Traders | System-preferred MFA (asks for the strongest method a person has) | Off | On, or Microsoft managed | Otherwise people are asked for their own default, often a text message. |
| | Northwind Traders | People can report an MFA prompt they didn't expect | Microsoft managed | On | A reported prompt blocks the account's risky sign-ins and alerts admins. |
| | Northwind Traders | Methods managed in this policy (not the old MFA and SSPR settings) | Yes | Yes | Microsoft has retired the old per-user MFA and SSPR method settings. |

Prepared by Harbour IT (help@harbourit.example · 0161 496 0000). Read from Microsoft 365 with read-only access; nothing was changed. Data collected 28 Nov 2026, 04:00 UTC.