

**SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

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ISSUED: July 8, 1999

EFFECTIVE: July 8, 1999

ISSUED BY: Janet S. Livengood, Esquire, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs  
DDI Plaza Two  
500 Thomas Street, Suite 400  
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania 15017-2838

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**Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS****9.1 LIFELINE TELEPHONE SERVICE****9.1.1 Basic Lifeline Service**

This low price individual message rate service provides a full waiver of the \$3.50 federal subscriber line charge. There is no monthly allowance for local calls. Primary area and home region calls are untimed. Extended area calls (where available) are timed.

**9.1.2 Eligibility**

This service is restricted to low income residential customers. To qualify for Lifeline service a customer must be income eligible for benefits from any one of the following Entitlement Programs:

- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
- Food Stamps
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Home Relief
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

The applicant must provide proof to the Company that he or she is certified as income eligible to receive one or more of the above benefits. After initial contact the customer is sent an application form to be completed by the customer or authorized representative of the customer, as designated by the appropriate state agencies and identified as so authorized on the customer's card for any of the above benefits.

In addition, applicants are eligible for discounted Life Line rates when approved to receive either a Veterans Disability Pension or a Veterans Surviving Spouse Pension. Applicants must provide proof to the Company that they are receiving one of these pensions.

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Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

9.1 LIFELINE TELEPHONE SERVICE (Cont'd)

9.1.2 Eligibility (Cont'd)

Life Line services are effective upon receipt of a completed and signed form or an application form certified from an entity authorized by the Company. If the form is not returned, no further action is taken by the Company to establish eligibility. The Life Line discount is credited as of the service connection date.

An individual's eligibility may be documented by information obtained by the Company as a result of enrollment programs, including but not limited to confidential computerized matching programs, conducted by the Company in conjunction with state agencies.

The Company, in coordination with appropriate agencies, will periodically verify each Lifeline customer's eligibility. If a customer is identified as being ineligible, the customer will be notified that unless the information is shown to be in error, the Lifeline discount will be discontinued. The customer will be billed for discounts received for any period in which he or she is proven to be ineligible for the service.

9.1.3 Charges

A qualified customer may choose one of the Lifeline services as described. For connection of new service, service connection charges apply unless the customer qualifies for connection assistance under the Link Up America plan as outlined in 9.2, following.

Service connection charges do not apply to change existing service from:

- a. Message Rate Service to Basic Lifeline service;
- b. Basic Lifeline service to Message Rate Service.

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Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

9.2 LINK UP AMERICA

The Link Up America program is a connection assistance plan which provides for the reduction of one-half of the charges associated with connection of telephone service, up to \$30.00, subject to the following eligibility criteria:

- 9.2.1 The applicant must meet the requirements for qualification for Lifeline Telephone Service stipulated in 9.1.2, above;
- 9.2.2 The assistance can only apply for a single telephone line at the principal place of residence of the applicant;
- 9.2.3 The applicant must not be a dependent for federal income tax purposes, unless he or she is more than 60 years old.

9.3 SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRED CUSTOMER

- 9.3.1 The Company will provide, upon request, specialized telecommunications equipment for a customer certified as hearing or speech impaired.
- 9.3.2 A customer can be certified as hearing or speech impaired by a licensed physician, otolaryngologist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist or an authorized representative of a social agency that conducts programs for persons with hearing or speech impairments in cooperation with an official agency of the State of Ohio.
- 9.3.3 The Company will make every reasonable effort to locate and obtain equipment for a certified customer.
- 9.3.4 The customer may purchase equipment at a price not to exceed the actual purchase price (including any applicable shipping costs) the Company pays.
- 9.3.5 The Company will also advise the customer who requests this equipment of the applicable terms for purchase.

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Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

9.4 DISCOUNTED SERVICE FOR THE HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRED CUSTOMER

9.4.1 A handicapped person who has been certified to the Company as having a hearing or speech impairment which requires that he or she communicate over telephone facilities by means other than voice, and who either use non-voice equipment or make calls through an interpreter, will receive, upon application to the Company, a fifty percent (50%) discount on local message rate service.

9.4.2 Certification

Acceptable certifications are:

1. Those made by a licensed physician, otolaryngologist, speech-language pathologist or audiologist or an authorized representative of a social agency that conducts programs for persons with hearing or speech impairment in cooperation with an official agency of the State of Ohio; or
2. A pre-existing certification establishing the impairment of hearing or speech such as those which qualify the handicapped person for social security benefits on the basis of total hearing impairment or for the use of facilities of an agency for a person with hearing or speech impairment.

9.4.3 Qualification

A customer qualifying for the discount is one whose impairment is such that competent authority would certify him or her as being unable to use a telephone for voice communication. See Section 9, "Handicapped Person," for a listing of the necessary qualifications.

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Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

9.4 DISCOUNTED SERVICE FOR THE HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRED CUSTOMER (Cont'd)

9.4.4 Billing

The reduction in charges is applied only at one location, designated by the impaired person.

9.5 UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER SERVICE

9.5.1 General

Universal Emergency Telephone Number Service (911 Service) is an arrangement of Company central office and trunking facilities whereby any telephone user who dials the number 911 will reach the emergency report center for the telephone from which the number is dialed or will be routed to an operator if all lines to an emergency report center are busy. If no emergency report center customer exists for a central office entity, a telephone user who dials the number 911 will be routed to an operator. The telephone user who dials the 911 number will not be charged for the call.

9.5.2 Regulations

- a. This service is furnished to municipalities and other governmental agencies only for the purpose of voice reporting of emergencies by the public. For this service, the municipality or government agency(s) designated by the customer as responsible for the control and staffing of the emergency report center is referred to as the "Agency".
- b. When 911 service replaces an existing emergency number, intercept service shall be the responsibility of the Agency. However, if the Agency is unable to provide this service, the operator will intercept and forward requests for emergency aid for a period of at least one year
- c. 911 service is furnished for incoming calls only.

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Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

9.5 UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER SERVICE (Cont'd)

9.5.3 Conditions of Furnishing Service

This service is offered solely as an aid in handling assistance calls in connection with fire, police, medical, and other emergencies. The Company is not responsible, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, for any losses, claims, demands, suits, or any liability, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by the customer or by any other party or person, for any personal injury to or death of any person or persons, and for any loss, damage, or destruction of any property, whether owned by the customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, location, or use of such facilities. By dialing 911, the customer agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Company from any and all loss or claims, whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by the destruction of any property, whether owned by the customer or others. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in no event shall the Company be liable for any special, incidental, consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages of any nature whatsoever.

The Company is not responsible for any infringement or invasion of the right of privacy of any person or persons, caused, or claimed to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, occasion or use of the 911 service features and the equipment associated therewith, including, but not limited to, the identification of the telephone number, address or name associated with the telephone used by the party or parties accessing the 911 service.

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**Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)****9.6 ENHANCED UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER SERVICE****9.6.1 General**

Enhanced Universal Emergency Telephone Number Service (E911 Service) is a Call Delivery Network whereby any telephone user who dials the number 911 will reach a designated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). E911 Service is offered in the Company's serving area subject to the availability of stored program control central office facilities, Enhanced 911 software, and ANI equipment. The telephone user who dials the 911 number will not be charged for the call.

**9.6.2 Regulations**

- a. In addition to the following, the regulations in 9.5.2 apply.
- b. This tariff does not provide for the inspection or constant monitoring of facilities to discover errors, defects, or malfunctions in the service, nor does the company undertake such responsibility. The Agency shall make such operational tests as in their judgment are required to determine whether the system is functioning properly for its use. The Agency shall promptly notify the Company in the event the system is not functioning properly.
- c. E911 information, consisting of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all telephone customers, is confidential. The Company will release such information to the Agency periodically for the update of their systems.

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Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

9.6 ENHANCED UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER SERVICE (Cont'd)

9.6.2 Regulations (Cont'd)

- d. The E911 calling party, by dialing 911, waives the privacy afforded by non-listed and non-published service to the extent that the telephone number ("ANI") and address ("ALI") associated with the originating station location are furnished to the PSAP, on a call by call basis, after an E911 call has been received.
  
- e. Service boundaries of the Company and political subdivision boundaries may not coincide. In the event that the Agency does not subscribe to Selective Routing, it must make arrangements to handle all 911 calls that originate from telephones served by Central offices in the local service areas (i.e., exchange) whether or not the calling telephone is situated on property within the geographical boundaries of the Agency's public safety jurisdiction.

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**Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)****9.6 ENHANCED UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER SERVICE (Cont'd)****9.6.3 Conditions of Furnishing Service**

This service is offered solely as an aid in handling assistance calls in connection with fire, police, medical, and other emergencies. The Company is not responsible, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, including default routing, for any losses, claims, demands, suits, or any liability, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by the customer or by any other party or person, for any personal injury to or death of any person or persons, and for any loss, damage, or destruction of any property, whether owned by the customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, location, or use of such facilities. By dialing 911, the customer agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Company from any and all loss or claims, whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by the destruction of any property, whether owned by the customer or others. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in no event shall the Company be liable for any special, incidental, consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages of any nature whatsoever, including for default routing.

The Company is not responsible for any infringement or invasion of the right of privacy of any person or persons, caused, or claimed to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, occasion or use of the 911 service features and the equipment associated therewith, including, but not limited to, the identification of the telephone number, address or name associated with the telephone used by the party or parties accessing the 911 service.

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**Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)****9.7 STATE OF OHIO RELAY SERVICE****9.7.1 General**

The Company will provide access to a telephone relay center for the Ohio Relay Service. The service permits telephone communications between hearing and/or speech impaired individuals who must use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) or a Teletypewriter (TTY) and individuals with normal hearing and speech. The Relay Service can be reached by dialing an 800 number. Specific 800 numbers have been designated for both impaired and non-impaired customers to use.

**9.7.2 Regulations**

- a. Only intrastate calls can be completed using the Ohio Relay Service under the terms and conditions of this tariff.
- b. Charges for calls placed through the Relay Service will be billed as if direct distance dialed (DDD) from the point of origination to the point of termination. The actual routing of the call does not affect billing.
- c. Calls through the Relay Service may be billed to a third number only if that number is within the State of Ohio. Calls may also be billed to calling cards issued by the Company or other carriers who may choose to participate in this service.

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Section 9 - SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

9.7 STATE OF OHIO RELAY SERVICE (Cont'd)

9.7.2 Regulations (Cont'd)

- d. The following calls may not be placed through the Relay Service:
1. calls to informational recordings and group bridging service;
  2. calls to time or weather recorded messages;
  3. station sent paid calls from coin telephones; and
  4. operator-handled conference service and other teleconference calls.

9.7.3 Liability

The Company contracts with an outside provider for the provision of this service. The outside provider has complete control over the provision of the service except for the facilities provided directly by the Company. In addition to other provisions of this Tariff dealing with liability, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of the Company, the Company shall not be liable for and the customer, by using the service, agrees to release, defend, and hold harmless for all damages, whether direct, incidental or consequential, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by the customer, or by any other person, for any loss or destruction of any property whatsoever, whether covered by the customer or others, or for any personal injury or death of, any person. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in no event shall the Company be liable for any special, incidental, consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages of any nature whatsoever.

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