



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON TRACFONE'S PETITION TO AMEND LIFELINE RULES TO PROHIBIT IN-PERSON DISTRIBUTION OF HANDSETS TO PROSPECTIVE LIFELINE CUSTOMERS

WC Docket No. 11-42

Comment Date: June 17, 2013
Reply Comment Date: July 2, 2013

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment on a petition for rulemaking filed by TracFone Wireless, Inc. (TracFone).¹ In its petition, TracFone urges the Commission to promptly commence a rulemaking proceeding for the purpose of amending its Lifeline rules to prohibit in-person distribution of handsets to prospective Lifeline consumers as a means to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program.² TracFone claims that the ability of eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to distribute handsets in real time to prospective Lifeline subscribers may often prevent ETCs from performing the necessary verification to certify that those consumers are eligible for Lifeline benefits.³ Tracfone suggests that the Commission should require ETCs to send handsets to the Lifeline subscribers via U.S. mail or approved delivery service after the ETC has verified the applicants' eligibility in accordance with Commission rules.⁴

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- **Electronic Filers:** Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.
- **Paper Filers:** Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

¹ See *Petition for Rulemaking to Prohibit In-Person Distribution of Handsets to Prospective Lifeline Customers; Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al*, Petition for Rulemaking, WC Dkt. Nos. 11-42 *et al.*, CC Dkt. No. 96-45 (filed May 13, 2013) (*TracFone Petition*).

² See *id.* at 1, 5-6.

³ See *id.* at 6.

⁴ See *id.* at 7.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.
- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington DC 20554.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (tty).

The proceeding this Notice initiates shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁵ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.*, .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

For further information, please contact Garnet Hanly, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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⁵ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*