WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEeks COMMENT ON HOW THE NATIONAL LIFELINE ACCOUNTABILITY DATABASE CAN ACCOMMODATE ADDRESSES FOR PARTICIPANTS OF ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAMS

WC Docket No. 11-42

Comment Date: December 5, 2013
Reply Comment Date: December 12, 2013

In this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment on waiving certain Lifeline rules for the benefit of those individuals participating in state-administered Address Confidentiality Programs (ACPs). ACPs allow victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse to keep their residential address confidential from public records. These programs are administered at the state level and provide victims with alternate, shared mailing addresses for use on public documents, such as public benefit materials or voter registration. The addresses often include a P.O. Box along with an individualized code tied to each participating consumer.

In the Lifeline Reform Order, the Commission adopted a rule requiring subscribers to provide their residential address to Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) prior to receiving Lifeline service. ETCs must transmit that residential address to the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) when it is ready to accept subscriber information, in order to facilitate a check for duplicative


The current Lifeline rules do not permit subscribers to use P.O. Boxes as their residential address.\footnote{See 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(6).}

We seek comment on whether the Bureau should waive the rule limiting the use of P.O. Box residential addresses, to allow qualifying, low-income consumers who participate in state-administered ACPs to receive Lifeline service. A potential Lifeline subscriber would provide the ETC with proof that he or she is receiving mail at the address that has been designated by the state as the ACP address. ETCs would then transmit that address to the NLAD as the residential address for that subscriber.\footnote{See Lifeline Reform Order, 27 FCC Rcd at 6695, para. 87 (stating that P.O. Boxes are not allowed to be used as residential addresses on Lifeline application and enrollment forms).} We seek comment on the types of official documents that ETCs should accept as proof of ACP enrollment and the address formats used for ACP participants. We also seek comment on whether to waive the requirement for ACP participants to fill out a one per household worksheet, in order to allow for more efficient Lifeline enrollment for ACP recipients.\footnote{See 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(6).} Finally, we seek comment on whether any additional safeguards might be necessary to ensure that any waiver provided does not increase the likelihood of waste, fraud and abuse.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission’s rules,\footnote{47 C.F.R. §§ 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 should reference \textbf{WC Docket No. 11-42}, and may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.

- \textit{Electronic Filers}: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: \url{http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/}.
- \textit{Paper Filers}: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. 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.

\footnote{6 See 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(6).}
\footnote{7 See Lifeline Reform Order, 27 FCC Rcd at 6695, para. 87 (stating that P.O. Boxes are not allowed to be used as residential addresses on Lifeline application and enrollment forms).}
\footnote{8 See 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(6).}
\footnote{9 Because many states’ ACP programs operate through a single address, without such a waiver, many ACP participants would have to fill out a one-per-household worksheet. \textit{See Lifeline Reform Order, 27 FCC Rcd at 6691, para. 78 n.208.} Even with such a waiver, however, pursuant to the Commission’s eligibility certification requirements, an ACP participant would still need to certify s/he is only receiving one Lifeline benefit per household. \textit{See} 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(d)(3)(vi).}
\footnote{10 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419.}
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11 See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 et seq.