

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Telecommunications Relay Services
And Speech-to-Speech Services for
Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities
Sorenson Communications, Inc.
Petition for Waiver
CG Docket No. 10-51

ORDER

Adopted: February 9, 2015

Released: February 9, 2015

By the Chief, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau:

1. By this Order, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), on its own motion and pursuant to delegated authority, dismisses as moot a petition, filed by Sorenson Communications, Inc. (Sorenson), requesting that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) waive certain requirements to collect and submit IP addresses in order to receive compensation for the provision of Internet Protocol Relay (IP Relay) service.

2. On August 31, 2011, Sorenson filed a request for waiver with the FCC. Sorenson sought a waiver of the Commission's rules that require IP Relay providers to submit IP addresses to the telecommunications relay services (TRS) Fund administrator in order to receive compensation for handling IP Relay calls. As grounds for its request, Sorenson stated that it handled some IP Relay calls through Google Talk, an instant messaging service, but because Google Talk uses a unique protocol, XMPP, Sorenson was not able to collect and submit the required IP addresses. Sorenson asserted that a waiver of certain aspects of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(C)(2), was in the public interest because it would ensure that deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals could continue to use Google Talk to communicate with others on an IP Relay call.

3. Google, however, discontinued its Google Talk offering at the end of 2014. Moreover, Sorenson ceased offering IP Relay on July 31, 2013. By letter dated December 8, 2014, Sorenson asked

1 See 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.141, 0.361, 1.3.

2 See Request for Waiver for Sorenson Communications, Inc., filed in CG Docket No. 10-51 (Aug. 31, 2011) (Request).

3 47 C.F.R. § 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(C)(2).

4 See Request.

5 Id. at 1.

6 Google announced that the Google Talk app for Windows was being retired but that its Google Talk service is still available through Gmail. See http://googleappsupdates.blogspot.com/2014/10/notification-re-google-talk-app-for.html (last visited January 9, 2015).

to withdraw its Request for Waiver, stating that it had discontinued its IP Relay service and asserting that its Request for Waiver is moot.<sup>8</sup> Because Sorenson no longer provides IP Relay, which is the sole subject of this Request, we dismiss its Request as moot.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i)–(j), and 225 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i)–(j), and 225, and sections 0.141, 0.361 and 1.3 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.141, 0.361 and 1.3, the Request for Waiver filed by Sorenson Communications, Inc. IS DISMISSED AS MOOT.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Gregory Hlibok  
Chief, Disability Rights Office  
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

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<sup>7</sup> Letter from John T. Nakahata, Counsel to Sorenson Communications, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary, filed in CG Docket No. 03-123 (Jul. 8, 2013). In addition, Sorenson withdrew its application for certification as a provider of IP Relay. See Letter from Mark D. Davis, Counsel to Sorenson Communications, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary, filed in CG Docket Nos. 10-51 & 03-123 (amending Sorenson’s Application for Certification as a provider of Internet-based TRS to exclude IP Relay).

<sup>8</sup> Letter from Mark D. Davis, Counsel to Sorenson Communications, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary, filed in CG Docket No. 51 (Dec. 8, 2014).