



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU CONFIRMS NO NEW TEXTING FORMATS FOR TEXT-TO-988

WC Docket No. 18-336

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau), in accordance with the *Text-to-988 Second Report and Order*, provides notice that the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (Lifeline) will continue to receive and respond to short message service (SMS) messages¹ and that no new texting formats have been implemented or requested at this time.

In the *Text-to-988 Second Report and Order*, the Commission directed the Bureau to consult with the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on whether they have implemented, or seek to implement, any new texting formats to 988, to ensure that our texting requirements keep pace with their need to provide critical, life-saving counseling over text messages.² The Bureau must also issue a public notice on or before June 30, 2023, and no less frequently than annually thereafter, that either announces that no new texting formats are required or seeks comment on implementation parameters for covered text providers to transmit any additional text message formats to 988.³ Although no new texting formats have been implemented or requested by our federal partners at this time, the Bureau will continue to coordinate with SAMHSA and the VA over the next year so we may be able to facilitate any enhancements to this life-saving resource.

For further information, please contact Michelle Sclater at Michelle.Sclater@fcc.gov.

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¹ See *Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018*, WC Docket No. 18-336, Second Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 16901, 16916-17, para. 25 & n.108 (2021) (*Text-to-988 Second Report and Order*); see also 47 CFR § 64.1600(m) (“The term ‘short message service’ or SMS refers to a wireless messaging service that enables users to send and receive short text messages, typically 160 characters or fewer, to or from mobile phones and can support a host of applications.”).

² *Text-to-988 Second Report and Order*, 16916, para. 25. Additional texting formats could include multimedia message service (MMS), which “refers to a wireless messaging service that is an extension of the SMS protocol and can deliver a variety of media, and enables users to send pictures, videos, and attachments over wireless messaging channels.” See 47 CFR § 64.1600(k).

³ *Text-to-988 Second Report and Order*, 16916-17, para. 25 & n.108.