

BCM ONE, INC.
Tariff N.Y. P.S.C. No. 1
Effective Date: July 29, 2016

Section 7
Leaf No. 1
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COMMON CARRIER SERVICES

Special Services And Programs

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BCM ONE, INC.
Tariff N.Y. P.S.C. No. 1
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COMMON CARRIER SERVICES

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COMMON CARRIER SERVICES

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7.3 Special Equipment For The Hearing Or Speech Impaired Customer

- 7.3.1 As required by Section 92-a of New York State Public Service Law, the Company will provide, upon request, specialized telecommunications equipment for a customer certified as hearing or speech impaired.
- 7.3.2 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 New York.
- 7.3.3 The Company will make every reasonable effort to locate and obtain equipment for a certified customer.
- 7.3.4 The customer may purchase equipment at a price not to exceed the actual purchase price (including any applicable shipping costs) the Company pays.
- 7.3.5 The Company will also advise the customer who requests this equipment of the applicable terms for purchase.

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7.4 Discounted Service For The Hearing Or Speech Impaired Customer

7.4.1 General

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 50% discount on local message rate service.

7.4.2 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 New York, 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.

7.4.3 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 11, "Handicapped Person," for a listing of the necessary qualifications.

7.4.4 Billing

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

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7.5 Universal Emergency Telephone Number Service

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.

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7.6 New York Relay Service

7.6.1 General

The Company will provide access to a telephone relay center for New York 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.

7.6.2 Regulations

- a. Only intrastate calls can be completed using the New York 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 New York State. 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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7.6 New York Relay Service (cont'd)

7.6.2 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.

7.6.3 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 to 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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7.7 Special Credit Card For Blind And Disabled Persons

7.7.1 General

Persons who are blind or whose disability causes difficult with hand and finger coordination and use of a telephone qualify for a Special Credit Card. The card may be used from any telephone within the Company's territory to place calls within and outside the state of New York at a special rate or to place calls from a telephone outside of the Company's territory, but within the state of New York at rates applicable to the territory from which the call is made.

7.7.2 Rates

Within the Company's Territory:

Station to station toll calls placed with operator assistance will be billed at the lower rate normally applicable to calls placed without operator assistance. Local calls cannot be charged to the card. Person-to-person calls charged to the card with be billed at the higher operator handled rate.

Outside the Company's Territory, but within New York State:

All rates, charges, billing and restriction in effect in the territory from which the call is made will apply.

7.7.3 Qualification

The follow criteria will be used to determine eligibility for the Special Credit Card:

7.7.3.1 "Legally Blind" - those whose visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.

7.7.3.2 "Physically Handicapped" - those who are certified by competent authority as unable to read or use ordinary printed materials as result of physical limitations.

7.7.3.3 Persons whose disabling condition causes difficulty with hand and finger coordination and utilization of a coin or noncoin telephone. Acceptable certifications are those made by a licensed physician, ophthalmologist or optometrist.

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7.7 Special Credit Card For Blind And Disabled Persons (Cont'd)

7.7.4 Billing Authorization

Responsibility for payment of charges may be handled in one of two ways:

1. The handicapped person (the applicant) may accept responsibility for payment of his or her own bill. In this case, the applicant must be 18 years of age or older and must reside within the Company's service territory, but he or she does not need to have other service from the Company.
2. Another party may agree to accept responsibility for payment of charges incurred through use of the Special Credit Card by the applicant. When this option is chosen, the person accepting this responsibility must be 18 years of age or older, but does not need to reside within the Company's service territory.

In either case, the applicant is the only authorized user of the Special Credit Card. If the person accepting payment responsibility has service within the Company's service territory, charges will be billed on a regular monthly bill; otherwise a separate bill will be sent.

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7.8 Schools And Libraries Discount Program

7.8.1. General

The Schools and Libraries Discount Program permits eligible schools (public and private, grades Kindergarten through 12) and libraries to purchase the Company services offered in this tariff and the (additional company tariff references, if appropriate) at a discounted rate, in accordance with the Rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in its Universal Service Order 97-157, issued May 8, 1997 and the New York State Public Service Commission in its Opinion and Order 97-11 Adopting Discounts for Services for Schools and Libraries, issued June 25, 1997. The Rules are codified at 47 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) 54.500 et. seq.

As indicated in the Rules, the discounts will be between 20 and 90 percent of the pre-discount price, which is the price of services to schools and libraries prior to application of a discount. The level of discount will be based on an eligible school or library's level of economic disadvantage and by its location in either an urban or rural area. A school's level of economic disadvantage will be determined by the percentage of its students eligible for participation in the national school lunch program, and a library's level of economic disadvantage will be calculated on the basis of school lunch eligibility in the public school district in which the library is located. A non-public school may use either eligibility for the national school lunch program or other federally approved alternative measures to determine its level of economic disadvantage. To be eligible for the discount, schools and libraries will be required to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Rules. Discounts are available only to the extent that they are funded by the federal universal service fund. Schools and libraries may aggregate demand with other eligible entities to create a consortium.

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7.8 Schools And Libraries Discount Program (Cont'd)

7.8.2. Regulations

1. Obligation of eligible schools and libraries

a. Requests for service

1. Schools and libraries and consortia shall participate in a competitive bidding process for all services eligible for discounts, in accordance with any state and local procurement rules.

2. Schools and libraries and consortia shall submit requests for services to the Schools and Libraries Corporation, as designated by the FCC, and follow established procedures.

3. Services requested will be used for educational purposes.

4. Services will not be sold, resold or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.

2. Obligations of the Company

a. The Company will offer discounts to eligible schools and libraries on commercially available telecommunications services contained in this tariff. Those services contained in this tariff which are excluded from the discount program, in accordance with the Rules, are included as an attachment to this tariff.

b. The Company will offer services to eligible schools, libraries and consortia at prices no higher than the lowest price it charges to similarly situated non-residential customers for similar services (lowest corresponding price).

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7.8 Schools And Libraries Discount Program (Cont'd)

7.8.2. Obligations of the Company (Cont'd)

c. In competitive bidding situations, the Company may offer flexible pricing or rates other than in this tariff, where specific flexible pricing arrangements are allowed, subject to New York State Public Service Commission approval.

7.8.3. Discounted Rates for Schools and Libraries

1. Discounts for eligible schools and libraries and consortia shall be set as a percentage from the pre-discount price, which is the price of services to schools and libraries prior to application of a discount.
2. The discount rate will be applied to eligible intrastate services purchased by eligible schools, libraries or consortia.
3. The discount rate is based on each school or library's level of economic disadvantage as determined in accordance with the FCC Order or other federally approved alternative measures (as permitted by the Rules) and by its location in either an urban or rural area.
4. The discount matrix for eligible schools, libraries and consortia is included as an attachment to this tariff.

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7.9 Health Care Providers Support Program

7.9.1. General

The purpose of the Health Care Providers Support Program is to enable public and non-profit rural health care providers to have access to telecommunications services necessary for the provision of health care services at rates comparable to those paid for similar services in urban areas. The Health Care Providers Support Program offers eligible public and non-profit health care providers located in rural areas reduced rates for Company intrastate services, available in this Tariff. Such services must be purchased in accordance with the Rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in its Universal Service Order 97-157, issued May 8, 1997 and the New York State Public Service Commission in its Order in Cases 94-C-0095 and 28425, issued November 4, 1997. The FCC Rules are codified at 47 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) 54.601 et. seq., and any amendments made thereto.

7.9.2. Regulations

- a. To be eligible for the reduced rates, rural health care providers are required to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the FCC Rules.
- b. Reduced rates are available only to the extent that they are funded by the federal universal service fund.
- c. Eligible rural health care providers may aggregate demand with other entities to create a consortium. Universal service support shall apply only to the portion of eligible services used by an eligible health care provider.

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7.9 Health Care Providers Support Program

7.9.2. Regulations (Cont'd)

d. Responsibility of eligible health care providers (Cont'd)

1. Rural health care providers and consortia shall participate in a competitive bidding process for all services eligible for reduced rates in accordance with any state and local procurement rules.
2. Rural health care providers and consortia shall submit requests for services to the program Administrator, as designated by the FCC, and follow established procedures.
3. Services requested must be used for purposes related to the provision of health care services or instruction that the health care provider is legally authorized to provide under the law.
4. A health care provider that cannot obtain toll free access to an Internet Service Provider and who is eligible for support for limited toll-free access under the Rules must certify that it lacks toll-free Internet access and that it is an eligible health care provider.
5. Services cannot be sold, resold or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.

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7.9 Health Care Providers Support Program (Cont'd)

7.9.2. Regulations (Cont'd)

e. Responsibility of the Company

1. The Company shall offer the rates and charges as specified in Section 3, to eligible health care providers to the extent that facilities and services are available and offered in the tariffs specified in 1. preceding.
2. The Company shall offer services to eligible rural health care providers and consortia at prices no higher than the highest urban rate as defined in the FCC Order and Rules.
3. In competitive bidding situations, where specific flexible pricing arrangements are allowed, the Company may offer flexible pricing (to determine the reduced rate) subject to New York State Public Service Commission approval.

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7.9 Health Care Providers Support Program (Cont'd)

7.9.3. Rates and Charges

The following price adjustments will be available to eligible rural health care providers, except subparagraph c., which shall be available to all eligible health care providers, regardless of location;

- a. A reduced rate for telecommunications services, using a bandwidth capacity of up to 1.544 Mbps, not to exceed the highest tariffed or publicly available rate charged to a commercial customer for a similar service provided over the same distance in the nearest city in new York State with a population of at least 50,000.
- b. An exemption from some mileage charges for any telecommunications services, using a bandwidth capacity of up to 1.544 Mbps, that is necessary for the provision of health care services. The exempted mileage includes the distance between the rural health care provider and the most distant perimeter of the nearest city in New York State with a population of 50,000 or more, less the standard urban distance, which is the maximum average diameter of all cities with population of 50,000 or more in the state.
- c. Each eligible health care provider that cannot obtain toll-free access to an Internet service provider is entitled to receive toll charge credits for toll charges imposed for connecting to an Internet service provider as per the FCC Rules. Such toll charge credits are available pursuant to applicable toll tariffs.

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7.10 Blocking Service

7.10.1 General

Blocking service is a feature that permits customers to restrict access from their telephone line to various discretionary services. The following blocking options are available to residential and business customers:

a. 900, 700 Blocking - allows the subscriber to block all calls beginning with the 900 and 700 prefixes (i.e. 900-XXX-XXXX) from being placed.

b. 900, 700, 333 (Rochester LATA, only), 396, 540, 550, 551 (Syracuse LATA, only), 770 (NY Metro LATA, only), 910, 920, 970, 971, 974 & 976 Blocking - allows the subscriber to block all calls beginning with the above prefixes from being placed.

c. Third Number Billed and Collect Call Restriction - provides the subscriber with a method of denying all third number billed and collect calls to a specific telephone number provided the transmitting operator checks their validation data base.

d. Toll Restriction (1+ and 0+ Blocking) - provides the subscriber with local dialing capabilities but blocks any customer-dialed call that has a long distance charge associated with it.

Toll Restriction will not block the following types of calls: 911 (Emergency), 1 + 800 (Toll Free), and operator assisted toll calls.

e. Toll Restriction Plus - provides subscribers with Toll Restriction, as described in 1.d. of this Section, and blocking of 411 calls.

f. Direct Inward Dialing Blocking (Third Party and Collect Call) - provides business customers who subscribe to DID service to have Third Party and Collect Call Blocking on the number ranges provided by the Company.

7.10.2 Regulations

7.10.2.1 The Company will not be liable for any charge incurred when any long distance carrier or alternative operator service provider accepts third number billed or collect calls.

7.10.2.2 Blocking Service is available where equipment and facilities permit.

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7.10.3 Rates and Charges

.1 Recurring and Nonrecurring Charges

The following rates and charges are in addition to all other applicable rates and charges for the facilities furnished.

Nonrecurring Charge

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
900 and 700 Blocking		
- Residential	\$0.00	\$0.00
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.00	\$10.00
900, 971, 974, and 700 Blocking		
- Residential	\$0.00	\$0.00
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.00	\$10.00

The nonrecurring charge for initial request of one and two-line business customers is waived for 90 days from the customer's service establishment date.

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7.10.3 Rates and Charges (cont'd)

7.10.3.1 Recurring and Nonrecurring Charges (cont'd)

Monthly Charges

Third Number Billed and Collect Call Restriction	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
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- Residential \$0.00	\$5.00	
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.00	\$5.00

Toll Restriction

- Residential \$0.01	\$5.00	
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.01	\$5.00

Toll Restriction Plus

- Residential \$0.01	\$5.00	
- Business (up to 200 lines)	\$0.01	\$5.00

Direct Inward Dialing Blocking
(Third Party and Collect Call)

- Initial Activation	\$0.01	\$50.00
- Subsequent Activation (per line) \$0.01	\$10.00	

7.10.3.2 Pricing for Blocking Service for a business customer with more than 200 lines will be based on the costs incurred by Company to provide the service.

7.10.3.3 Connection charges apply as specified in Section 3 of this tariff.

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7.11 Automatic Number Identification

7.11.1 Regulations

The Company will provide Automatic Number Identification (ANI) associated with an intrastate service, by tariff, to any entity (ANI recipient), only under the following terms and conditions:

- 1) The ANI recipient or its designated billing agent may use or transmit ANI information to third parties for billing and collection, routing, screening, ensuring network performance, and completion of a telephone subscriber's call or transaction, or for performing a service directly related to the telephone subscriber's original call or transaction.
- 2) The ANI recipient may offer to any telephone subscriber with whom the ANI recipient has an established customer relationship, a product or service that is directly related to products or service previously purchased by the telephone subscriber from the ANI recipient.
- 3) The ANI recipient or its designated billing agent is prohibited from utilizing ANI information to establish marketing lists or to conduct outgoing marketing calls, except as permitted by the preceding paragraph, unless the ANI recipient obtains the prior written consent of the telephone subscriber permitting the use of ANI information for such purposes. The foregoing provisions notwithstanding, no ANI recipient or its designated billing agent may utilize ANI information if prohibited elsewhere by law.
- 4) The ANI recipient or its designated billing agent is prohibited from reselling, or otherwise disclosing ANI information to any other third party for any use other than those listed in Provision 1, unless the ANI recipient obtains the prior written consent of the subscriber permitting such resale or disclosure.
- 5) Telephone Corporations must make reasonable efforts to adopt and apply procedures designed to provide reasonable safeguards against the aforementioned abuses of ANI.

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7.11.1 Regulations (Cont'd)

6) Violation of any of the foregoing terms and conditions by any ANI recipient other than a Telephone Corporation shall result, after a determination through the Commission's complaint process, in suspension of the transmission of ANI by the Telephone Corporation until such time as the Commission receives written confirmation from the ANI recipient that the violations have ceased or have been corrected. If the Commission determines that there have been three or more separate violations in a 24 month period, delivery of ANI to the offending party shall be terminated under terms and conditions determined by the Commission.

7.11.2 Terms and Conditions

Violation of any of the foregoing terms and conditions by a Telephone Corporation may result in Commission prosecution of penalty and enforcement proceedings pursuant to Section 24, 25 and 26 of the Public Service Law.

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7.12 Primary Interexchange Carrier Change Charge

Customers may be presubscribed to the carrier of their choice for both interLATA and intraLATA service. The customer will incur a charge each time there is a change in the long distance carrier associated with the customer's intraLATA or interLATA service after the initial installation of service.

Minimum: \$ 0.00

Maximum: \$ 5.00

7.13 Flexible Pricing

7.13.1 General

Flexible Pricing sets minimum and maximum rates that can be charged for telephone service. The Company may change a specific rate within the range of the established minimum and maximum rates on one day's notice to customers and the Public Service Commission.

7.13.2 Conditions

- a. The Company reserves the right to change prices at any time subject to regulatory requirements by filing a revised Rate Attachment with the Commission.
- b. Individual written notice to Customers of rate changes shall be made in accordance with Commission regulations. Where there are no regulations, notification will be made in a manner appropriate to the circumstances involved.
- c. A rate shall not be changed unless it has been in effect for at least thirty (30) days.
- d. A customer can request that the Company disconnect service that is provided under the Flexible Pricing due to a price increase. The customer will be credited for the difference between the new price and the old price retroactive to the effective date of the price increase if the customer notifies the Company of its desire to disconnect service within 20 days of receiving notification of the price increase.

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7.14 Additional Provisions Applicable To Business Customers

7.14.1 Application of Rates

a. Business rates as described in Section 7 and shown in Attachment B apply to service furnished:

1. In office buildings, stores, factories and all other places of a business nature;
2. In hotels, apartment houses, clubs and boarding and rooming houses except when service is within the customer's domestic establishment and no business listings are provided; colleges, hospitals and other institutions; and in churches except when service is provided to an individual of the clergy for personal use only and business service is already established for the church at the same location;
3. At any location when the listing or public advertising indicates a business or a profession;
4. At any location where the service includes an extension which is at a location where business rates apply unless the extension is restricted to incoming calls;
5. At any location where the customer resells or shares exchange service;

b. The use of business facilities and service is restricted to the customer, customers, agents and representatives of the customer, and joint users.

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7.14 Additional Provisions Applicable To Business Customers (Cont'd)

7.14.2 Telephone Number Changes

When a business customer requests a telephone number change, the referral period for the disconnected number is 180 days.

The customer may order a Customized Number where facilities permit for an additional charge as specified in Section 5.9 of this Tariff.

When service in an existing location is continued for a new customer, the existing telephone number may be retained by the new customer only if the former customer consents in writing, and if all charges against the account are paid or assumed by the new customer.

7.14.3 Deposits

Deposits will be returned to a business customer upon cancellation of service or after one year, whichever event occurs first, unless the customer is delinquent in payment, in which case the Company will continue to retain the deposit until the delinquency is satisfied. If a service is involuntarily discontinued, the deposit is applied against the final bill, and any balance is returned to the customer.

7.14.4 Dishonored Checks

If a business customer who has received a notice of discontinuance pays the bill with a check that is subsequently dishonored, the account remains unpaid and the Company is not required to issue any additional notice before disconnecting service.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers

7.15.1 Application of Rates

Residential rates as described in Section 6 and shown in Attachment B apply to service furnished in private homes or apartments (including all parts of the customer's domestic establishment) for domestic use. Residential rates also apply in college fraternity or sorority houses, convents and monasteries, and to the clergy for domestic use in residential quarters.

Residential rates do not apply to service in residential locations if the listing indicates a business or profession. Residential rates do not apply to service furnished in residential locations if there is an extension line from the residential location to a business location unless the extension line is limited to incoming calls.

The use of residential service and facilities is restricted to the customer, members of the customer's domestic establishment, and joint users.

2.11.2 Telephone Number Changes

When a residential customer requests a telephone number change, the referral period for the disconnected number is 90 days.

The customer may order a Customized Number where facilities permit for an additional charge as specified in Section 5.9 of this Tariff.

When service in an existing location is continued for a new customer, the existing number may be retained by the new customer only if the former customer consents in writing, and if all charges against the account are paid or assumed by the new customer.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers (Cont'd)

7.15.3 Deposits

a. General

Except as provided in (b) following, the Company may require a deposit, as described in Section 2.4.2 of this Tariff, from a residential customer who is applying for service if the customer: 1) has had service terminated for nonpayment once within the preceding six month period, or 2) is delinquent in payment. A customer is delinquent in payment if that customer has received two consecutive telephone bills without making payment of at least one-half the total arrears due on the due date of the second bill. A customer is not considered delinquent, however, if an amount in dispute is not paid before the dispute is resolved.

An existing customer is an applicant for service who was a customer of the Company within twelve months of making the request, provided that prior service was not terminated for nonpayment, unless service is requested within 10 days of such termination for nonpayment. Applicants for residential service and existing residential customers are permitted to pay deposits in installments over a period not to exceed 6 months.

A new customer is an applicant for service who has not been a customer of the Company within twelve months of making the request for service. A new customer shall not be required to post a security deposit as a condition of receiving telephone service.

A seasonal customer is an individual who applies for and receives telephone service periodically each year, intermittently during the year or at other regular intervals scheduled at the time of application. A seasonal customer may be required to post a deposit.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers (Cont'd)

7.15.3 Deposits (cont'd)

b. Customers Exempt from Deposits

1. A new customer or existing customer who is 62 years of age or older shall be exempt from any deposit requirement unless such person's telephone service was terminated for nonpayment during the preceding six months. Proof of age will be required from any person claiming exemption from deposit requirements because of age. If the proof requested by the Company is not received within 30 days from the date service is connected, or 30 days from the date that verification of age is requested from an existing customer, the Company may suspend or terminate service unless the customer pays the required deposit. Any new customer or existing customer 62 years of age or older shall be permitted to pay a deposit in installments over a period not to exceed 12 months.

2. The Company shall not require any person it knows to be a recipient of public assistance, supplemental security income or additional state payments to post a deposit.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers (Cont'd)

7.15.3 Deposits (cont'd)

c. Recent Payment History

A customer who has a recent payment history (within the preceding twelve months) with the Company is entitled to service without payment of a deposit unless his or her records indicate a delinquency in payment or a termination of service for nonpayment. A customer who still owes money to the Company for residential service on a prior account shall be offered a deferred payment plan provided that the customer had service for three months and was not terminated for nonpayment during that period. (See Deferred Payment Agreements, 7.15.7 below.)

New deposits from a residential customer is reviewed after the first 3 monthly bills have been rendered; if too much has been taken, the excess is returned. The entire deposit is returned to a residential customer after 1 year, unless the customer is delinquent in payment, in which case the Company may continue to retain the deposit until the delinquency is satisfied. If the service is discontinued, the deposit is applied against the final bill, and any balance is returned to the customer.

7.15.4 Installment Billing For Nonrecurring Charges

A residential customer may elect to pay service connection and other nonrecurring charges associated with a service order in monthly installments for up to a 12 month period. When installment billing is requested, all nonrecurring charges associated with a given service order will be included in the calculation of the monthly installment.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers (Cont'd)

7.15.4 Installment Billing For Nonrecurring Charges (cont'd)

Installment billing is subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Installment billing may be used only by residential customers;
- b. Charges will be billed in the number of installments of equal dollar amounts as requested by the customer up to a maximum of 12 installments over the course of 12 months;
- c. A customer may not pay a portion of the charges and then request installment billing for the remaining charges;
- d. More than one installment plan may be in effect for the same customer at the same time;
- e. If a customer disconnects service during the installment payment period, all unbilled charges will be included in the final bill rendered;
- f. A customer may elect to pay the unbilled charges before the expiration of the installment plan;
- g. Installment billing payments will continue even when an account is temporarily suspended;
- h. No interest or carrying charges will be applied to the outstanding balance during the installment period.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers (Cont'd)

7.15.5 Adjusted Payment Schedule

A customer on a fixed income (e.g., pension and public assistance) shall be offered the opportunity to pay his or her bills on a reasonable schedule that is adjusted for periodic receipt of income.

7.15.6 Suspension or Termination for Nonpayment

a. Suspension/termination notices may not be issued until at least 25 days after the date of the bill. Bills must be mailed to the customer no later than 6 business days after the date of the bill.

b. After issuing the written notification in accordance with 2.9.1, at least one attempt shall be made during non-working hours to contact the residential customer by telephone before the scheduled date of suspension/termination.

c. Suspension/termination may occur only between 8:00 AM and 7:30 PM on Monday through Thursday, and between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Friday, provided that such day or the following day is not a public holiday or a day on which the main office is closed. In addition, service may not be disconnected during the periods of December 23 through the 26 and December 30 through January 2.

d. Telephone service may be suspended or terminated for nonpayment of the undisputed portion of a disputed bill or deposit if the customer does not pay the undisputed portion after being asked to do so. Suspended or terminated residential service shall be reconnected within 24 hours following payment or within 24 hours of the end of circumstances beyond the Company's control which delay the reconnection. The Commission may direct that service be reconnected in less than 24 hours.

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7.15.7 Deferred Payment Agreements

Service will not be suspended or terminated unless the customer has been advised that a deferred payment plan can be arranged. An existing residential customer with three or more months service and for whom service has not been terminated for nonpayment is eligible for Deferred Payment Arrangements (DPA). The Company must offer an eligible customer a DPA in accordance with the Commission's order in Case 90-C-1148 issued on August 7, 1992. Final notice of suspension/termination will advise the customer of deferred payment arrangements and will include, in bold print, a notice that assistance in reaching an agreement may be obtained from the Commission. The DPA notice will be mailed no less than six days before termination of total service.

A Deferred Payment Agreement will be for a period agreed to by both the customer and the Company.

If the Company believes that the customer has the resources to pay the bill, it shall notify both the customer and the Commission in writing of the reasons for its belief. The Commission shall make the final determination as to whether a DPA should be provided. A customer with medical emergencies and a customer who is elderly, blind or disabled shall be exempt from such eligibility criteria.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers (Cont'd)

7.15.8 Dishonored Checks

When a check received from a residential customer is dishonored, the company shall make two attempts, one outside of normal business hours, to contact the customer within 24 hours. The customer shall be given an additional 24 hours to pay before suspension/termination. The additional notice will be given provided that the customer has not submitted a dishonored check within the past 12 months.

7.15.9 Suspension or Termination - Abandonment

Suspension/termination of residential service for abandonment or unauthorized use may occur only after the Company makes a reasonable attempt to determine occupancy or authorized use, or the customer takes reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized use. A notice must be sent to the customer five days before such suspension or termination. The notification requirement is waived when previous mailings are returned by the Post Office or the company is advised that a new customer has moved into the location.

7.15.10 Suspension or Termination - Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency as defined in 16NYCRR, Sec. 609, an additional 30 days will be allowed for a residential customer before suspension or termination. A medical certificate as defined in 16NYCRR, Sec. 609, must be supplied. The medical emergency status may be extended beyond 30 days upon submission of specified documentation. During the emergency, the customer will be able to defer payment of monthly charges up to an amount specified by the Commission until the emergency ceases or it is determined that the customer has the ability to pay the charges. Charges in any month in excess of the amount specified are due by the due date of the bill.

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7.15 Additional Provisions Applicable To Residential Customers (Cont'd)

7.15.11 Suspension or Termination - Elderly, Blind or Disabled

An additional 20 days will be allowed before suspension or termination may occur when:

- a) the customer is known to or identified to the Company as being blind or disabled, as defined in 16NYCRR, Sec. 609, or
- b) the customer is 62 years of age or older, and all other residents of the customer's household are: under 18 years of age, over 62 years of age, blind or disabled.

In cases where service has been suspended or terminated and the Company subsequently learns that the customer is entitled to the protection established herein, the Company shall within 24 hours of such notification restore service for an additional 20 days and make a diligent effort to contact in person an adult resident at the customer's premises for the purpose of devising a payment plan.

7.15.12 Backbilling for Residential Customers

The Company shall not charge a residential customer for previously unbilled service or adjust upward a bill previously rendered when the period for the unbilled service or billing adjustment is more than six months prior to the mailing of the bill or the upward adjustment unless the conduct of the customer caused or contributed to the failure of the Company to render timely accurate billing. Unless the customer causes the late billing, the Company shall explain the reason for the late billing and shall advise the customer that suspension/termination of service is not permitted for charges billed in excess of six months after the service was provided. The customer will be given the opportunity to pay the charges under an installment plan on a schedule equal in time to the length of the backbilling period.

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7.16 Return Check Charge

When a check which has been presented to the Company by a customer in payment for charges is returned by the bank, the customer shall be responsible for the payment of a Returned Check Charge of \$10.00.