

Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc.
d/b/a Birch
PSC No: 1 - Telephone
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LOCAL AND INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONT'D.)

2.19 Additional Provisions Applicable to Residential Customers (Cont'd.)

2.19.6 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 month's service and for who 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 Department'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 Department. 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 Department in writing of the reasons for its belief. The Department 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.

2.19.7 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.

Issued By: Gordon P. Williams, Jr., Senior Vice President & General Counsel