

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL
REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL ASSESSMENT
OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY
SERVICE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019.

CASE NO. 20-03-TP-RPT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
RULES FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
RELAY SERVICE ASSESSMENT PURSUANT
TO R.C. 4905.84.

CASE NO. 08-815-TP-ORD

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on April 22, 2020

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission extends the date whereby all service providers required under federal law to provide customers with access to telecommunications relay service must complete and submit through the Commission's web-based filing system known as the PUCO Community, a response to the Telecommunications Relay Service Reporting Form until June 29, 2020. The Commission also sets the date for the payment of the telecommunications relay service assessment invoice to August 15, 2020. Those entities that fail to abide by these deadlines may be subject to a forfeiture pursuant to R.C. 4905.84.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Pursuant to R.C. 4905.84, by Entry issued January 29, 2020, the Commission directed all service providers required under federal law to provide customers with access to telecommunications relay service (TRS) to complete and submit, through the Commission's web-based filing system known as the PUCO Community, a response to the Telecommunications Relay Service Reporting Form by April 30, 2020.

{¶ 3} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department

of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety.

{¶ 4} Further, on March 22, 2020, as amended on April 2, 2020, Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, issued an order (Stay at Home Order) intended to ensure that the maximum number of Ohioans self-isolate in their residences to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue and help slow the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, the Stay at Home Order, among other things, directs all individuals in the State of Ohio to stay at home unless engaged in essential work or activity and directs all non-essential businesses and operations to cease all activities. The Stay at Home Order remains in full force and effect until May 1, 2020, unless Dr. Acton modifies or rescinds the order at an earlier time and date.

{¶ 5} In light of the governor's declaration of a state of emergency and the Stay at Home Order, the Commission finds it necessary to extend the April 30, 2020 filing deadline. Consequently, the Commission will extend the due date for the submission of the Telecommunications Relay Service Reporting Form until June 29, 2020. A list of all service providers who must file the form was filed by Staff on the docket for this proceeding on January 29, 2020.¹

{¶ 6} Pursuant to R.C. 4905.84, the Commission may collect an annual assessment from each service provider, required under federal law to provide its customers access to TRS, an annual assessment to pay for the costs incurred by the TRS provider for providing TRS in Ohio. The Commission directs that invoices for the annual assessments be issued on July 15, 2020 and the invoice be due on August 15, 2020.

{¶ 7} All TRS providers are hereby put on notice that the Commission will expect

¹ For further information about TRS in general, visit: <https://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco-forms/telecommunications-relay-service-trs-form/>.

timely compliance regarding the submission of the Telecommunications Relay Service Reporting Form by June 29, 2020 and the payment of the TRS invoice by August 15, 2020. All TRS providers should take notice that a civil forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per day, may be assessed, pursuant to R.C. 4905.84(E), against any company that fails to comply by the deadlines, absent good cause shown. Such forfeiture would be in addition to any amounts owed to this Commission.

III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That each service provider required to provide access to TRS to customers submit, using the Commission's web-based filing system known as the PUCO Community, a response to the Telecommunications Relay Service Reporting Form by June 29, 2020. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That each service provider who receives an annual assessment invoice remit payment for the invoice by August 15, 2020. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That notice of this Entry be sent to the telephone industry service list. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all telephone companies and commercial mobile radio service providers under the Commission's jurisdiction through the Telephone listserv, the Ohio Telecom Association, those entities who filed the Telephone Relay Service Reporting Form under the previous remittance period through the TRS listserv, and all other interested persons of record.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Sam Randazzo, Chairman
M. Beth Trombold
Daniel R. Conway
Dennis P. Deters
Lawrence K. Friedeman

AS/kck

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Case No(s). 20-0003-TP-RPT, 08-0815-TP-ORD

Summary: Finding & Order that each service provider required to provide access to TRS to customers submit, using the Commission's web-based filing system known as the PUCO Community, a response to the Telecommunications Relay Service Reporting Form by June 29, 2020. It is, further,
{¶ 10} ORDERED, That each service provider who receives an annual assessment invoice remit payment for the invoice by August 15, 2020.
electronically filed by Kelli C King on behalf of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio