

ORIGINAL FILE

The Express-Times

RM-7990

SERVING PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY SINCE 1855

Timothy M. Sowecke Publisher
David E. McCollum General Manager James S. Flagg Editorial Page Editor
Joan C. Stewart Executive Editor

RECEIVED
JUL 13 1992

Our VIEW

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FCC needs to curb 800 phone schemes

When you dial an 800 number, you don't expect to be billed for the call. Since their advent 25 years ago, 800 numbers have been regarded as toll-free.

But some unscrupulous businesses are changing that. They're using touch-tone technology to determine who called their 800 lines and reversing the charges.

Attorneys general in 34 states, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and two long-distance companies have called on the Federal Communications Commission to quash this deceitful practice. ~~It should do as they've asked — and soon, before more unsuspecting callers are billed.~~

Cynthia Paetow

Currently, there are no rules that say consumers can't be charged for calls to 800 numbers. Nor can long-distance companies deny 800 lines to any business until numerous complaints have been filed.

YOU HAVE THE POWER

Here's where you can write to tell the FCC what you think about keeping 800 numbers toll-free.

■ DONNA R. SEARCY
Secretary for the FCC
Room 222
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Last week, the FCC proposed changing its rules so that telephone companies would be prohibited from providing 800 lines to anyone who bills the dialer.

Legitimate businesses wouldn't be punished by this change. They could still sign up for 900 numbers, which people know they pay for.

~~But the change would hang up on sleazy operators and their 800 schemes.~~

Consumers can be protected from 900 numbers by signing up for free call blocking. They don't have that protection when 900 numbers are disguised as 800 numbers.

The FCC is seeking public comment on the proposed changes in its pay-per-call rules. The deadline to send comments to Washington, D.C., is July 8.

Consumers should add their voice to the campaign for curbing 800-service schemes, and FCC should listen.

W

1
t
E
l
t
J

ORIGINAL
FILE

Dear Mr. Searcy:
Please keep 1800 numbers
free
Thank you.

JUL 13 1992

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Nick Gantor