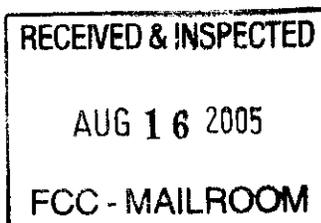


Robert Lande  
6349 Bright Plume  
Columbia, MD 21044

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

August 11, 2005

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
145 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554



Re: Petition of Rule Making

Dear Madam or Sir:

I would like to petition the FCC to make a rule regarding the toll free numbers that customers use to dial into their providers' network to charge calls when they are away from home, and especially when they use pay phones.

The rule is: Regarding companies that compete with the major providers of phone service, and specifically, regarding the toll-free phone numbers that these companies use for dialing into their phone networks: these numbers must differ from the toll-free phone numbers of the major providers by at least two digits.

The purpose of this rule is to prevent the "fat finger" dialing scam, in which these competing providers choose toll-free numbers that differ from a major provider's toll-free number by only one digit. When customers of the major provider mistakenly dial into the competing providers' network, they may not realize it until they see their phone bill and find that they have been charged up to 80 times the rate of their regular provider of phone service.

This happened to me. My daughter mistakenly dialed into Opticom's network from a pay phone rather than into Verizon's network because the phone numbers differ by only one digit: Opticom access number (800-225-2255); Verizon access number (800-255-2255). Opticom accepted my Verizon account number and PIN and then charged me \$2.50 and \$8.00 a minute for calls that would have cost me \$.10 a minute from Verizon. I complained to the FCC, but my complaint was denied because Opticom had broken no laws.

Here is a paragraph from an article on the "fat finger" scheme from PRIMEDIA Business Magazines & Media Inc., Telephony, October 14, 2002; Pg. 38

HEADLINE: Spelling Trouble;

BYLINE: A Telephony Feature by Chris Sewell

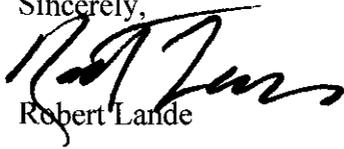
Tolchin's investigation resulted in a lawsuit filed with the New York State Supreme Court in January, alleging consumer fraud against Sprint and its wholly owned subsidiary ASC Telecom. The suit alleges that customers who misdialed in trying to reach carriers such as AT&T, MCI WorldCom, Verizon

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Communications and BellSouth were unsuspectingly delivered to ASC's exorbitantly priced doorstep. The suit further alleges that Sprint and ASC employed hundreds of nearly identical 800 number combinations and charged nearly three times more than customers expected, bilking them out of millions.

Please make it harder for companies like Opticom to run their scams.

Sincerely,



Robert Lande

410-992-1746