



Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia

Office of Consumer Services
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Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 626-5120

www.dcpssc.org

Business Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

People Serving the Community...

TYPES OF TAXES, SURCHARGES AND OTHER FEES ON RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE BILLS

FEDERALLY-IMPOSED

Federal Subscriber Line Charge (FSLC): The FSLC is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to compensate the local telephone companies for part of the cost of the installation and maintenance of the telephone wire, poles and other facilities that are used in providing long distance service that link residences to the telephone network. Effective since July 1, 2005, the monthly rate for each line is \$3.85. It is calculated based on 25% of the costs of the interstate portion of the line. Economy II service customers do not pay the FSLC.

Federal Universal Service Fund Surcharge (FUSF): The Federal Universal Service Fund is a federal government program that helps bring affordable basic phone service to all Americans. The program also assists schools, libraries and rural health care providers in obtaining phone service. Some long distance companies add a USF charge onto their bills to cover their support requirements for this program. Effective since July 1, 2005, the Federal Universal Service Fund surcharge in the District is 40 cents per line per month. Economy II service customers do not pay this surcharge.

Federal Excise Tax: The Federal Excise Tax is a 3% tax that is mandated by the federal government. It is levied on telecommunications services, including, local, long distance and wireless bills. It is not levied on service connection charges, D.C. local sales taxes, and non-regulated services.

D.C. GOVERNMENT - IMPOSED

E911 and 311 Surcharge: This fee (911) was originally embedded in the base rate charged by Verizon, Washington, DC Inc., for local exchange service. However, the Council of the District of Columbia by D.C. Act 13-352 (Emergency and Non-Emergency Telephone Calling Systems Fund Act of 2000) required the Commission to direct Verizon to remove the 911 system costs from the Base rate and implement the E911 and 311 user fee established by the Act. The E911 is the enhanced service for District citizens to summon help in emergencies. The 311 number is used to reduce emergency telephone call congestion by diverting non-emergency calls from the emergency telephone lines. The current E911 surcharge is 76 cents per line per month.

Public Rights-of-Way Fee: The Public Rights-of-Way Fee is mandated by the Council of the District of Columbia. The Council provided that Verizon should recover from its customers all costs it incurs to lease conduit and space for its underground facilities and poles that are on public space. Effective since July 1, 2005, the fee is \$1.22 per line per month.

Gross Receipts Tax (GRT): Gross Receipt Tax (GRT) is a tax imposed by the District of Columbia Government on locally tariffed service revenues from the sale of telecommunications services by all local telephone companies operating in the District. Directory Assistance is exempt from the GRT surcharge. All telephone companies are required to collect this tax from customers and turn the money over to the city treasury. Effective since January 1, 2005, the Gross Receipt Tax surcharge is 10 percent for residential customers.

D.C. Tax: A 5.75% sales tax which is applied to services that are not regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. Examples are Voice Mail and Inside Wire Maintenance Plans.

**MORE QUESTIONS?
NEED MORE INFO?
CALL 202-626-5120 or
VISIT US ON THE WEB at
www.dcpssc.org**

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