

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THOMAS DEAN STAUFFER	)	
	)	
COMPLAINANT	)	
	)	
V.	)	CASE NO. 2007-00399
	)	
BRANDENBURG TELEPHONE COMPANY	)	
	)	
DEFENDANT	)	

O R D E R

Despite Commission Staff's previous data requests and the responses filed by Complainant to Brandenburg Telephone Company's ("Brandenburg") filings, the Commission finds that further information is needed before the case proceeds. Accordingly, Brandenburg should provide the following information:

1. Does Brandenburg have a policy regarding the transfer of responsibility for payment of bills from one spouse to another spouse?
  - a. If yes, provide a copy of the tariff page upon which the policy appears.
  - b. If no, cite to the statute or administrative regulation that authorizes Brandenburg to transfer a balance in such a manner.
2. Does Brandenburg consider the spouse of an individual with an account to be a responsible party to the account if that spouse's name does not appear on the account? If yes, provide support or documentation.

3. What is the minimum amount the unpaid balance must reach before Brandenburg initiates an action in a court of law for the recovery of the unpaid balance?

4. What is the minimum amount of time that a balance must remain unpaid before Brandenburg initiates an action in a court of law for the recovery of the unpaid balance?

5. What methods, besides filing actions in courts of law, does Brandenburg utilize to collect past-due accounts? Discuss the responses in detail with cites to the supporting authority including, but not limited to, tariff pages, statutes, and administrative regulations.

6. Is it Brandenburg's understanding that it can disconnect service at one address for an unpaid debt incurred at another address? If yes, explain in detail how this action does not conflict with 807 KAR 5:006, Section 14(f).

7. How frequently does Brandenburg file actions in court to collect unpaid debts of residential customers? What is the status of the customer's account after a ruling from the court?

8. Commission Staff has learned that Brandenburg has filed an action in small claims court in Meade County seeking to recover from both Ms. Stauffer and her son the unpaid debt that is the subject of this case. In the event Brandenburg is successful in one or both of its actions for collection, would the unpaid debt be removed from Complainant's bill? Explain your answer.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The information requested above shall be provided in the following manner:

a. The information requested herein is due within 15 days of the date of this Order. Responses to requests for information shall be appropriately bound, tabbed and indexed and shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to questions related to the information provided, with copies to all parties of record and 5 copies to the Commission.

b. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

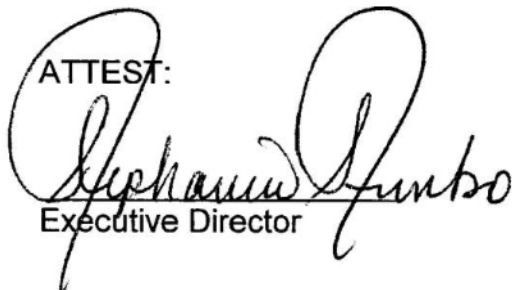
c. Any party shall make timely amendment to any prior responses if it obtains information which indicates that the response was incorrect when made or, though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect.

d. For any requests to which a party fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, that party shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

2. Any request for a hearing must be made by April 30, 2008. If no request is received, this case shall be submitted to the Commission for a decision.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.

By the Commission

ATTEST:  
  
Executive Director