Navigation Reports

PSC Home

KY Public Service Commission

Utility Information

General	Address	Comments	Counties	Groups
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http://psc.ky.gov/utility_master/ReadOnlyGeneral.aspx

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EXPRESS TELEPHONE SERVICES, INC.

OF

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS

Rates, Rules, and Regulations for Furnishing

Resale of Inter-exchange Telecommunications Services

Throughout the Entire State of Kentucky

Filed with PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF KENTUCKY

Issued: February 24, 2004

Effective: March 25, 2004

Issued By: Express Telephone Services, Inc.

By: Robert L. Wilson, Jr. / CEO

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 2

Inter- exchange Service

CHECK SHEET

All sheets of this tariff are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective sheets(s). Original and revised sheets as named below comprise all changes from the original tariff and are currently in effect as of the date on the bottom of this page.

<u>Sheet</u>	<u>Revision</u>	<u>Sheet</u>	Revision
1	Original	21	Original
2	Original	22	Original
3	Original	23	Original
4	Original	24	Original
5	Original	25	Original
6	Original		
7	Original		
8	Original		
9	Original		
10	Original		
11	Original		
12	Original		
13	Original		
14	Original		
15	Original		
16	Original		
17	Original		
18	Original		
19	Original		
20	Original		
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P.S.C. KY No.1 Original Sheet 3

Inter-exchange Service

Table of Contents

Title Sheet01
Check Sheet
Table of Contents03
Symbols
Tariff Format05
Section 1: Definitions and Abbreviations06
Section 2: Rules and Regulations07
Section 3: Description of Service08
Section 4: Rates and Charges09

Issued: February 24, 2004

Issued By: Robert L. Wilson, Jr. / CEO 6331 Grapevine Highway Suite 250 North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

Effective March 25, 2004

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MAR 2 5 2004

P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 4

Inter- exchange Service

SYMBOLS

The following are the only symbols used for the purposes indicated below:

D – Delete or Discontinue

- I Change Resulting In An Increase of Rates
- M- Moved from another Tariff
- N New Material

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- R Change Resulting In A Reduction of Rates
- T Change in Text or Regulation But No Change In Rate or Charge

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 5

Inter – exchange Service

Tariff Format

- <u>A.</u> <u>Sheet Numbering</u> Sheet numbers appear in the upper right corner of the sheet. Sheets are numbered sequentially. However, new sheets are occasionally added to the tariff.
- **<u>B.</u>** <u>Sheet Revision Numbers</u> Revision numbers also appear in the upper right hand corner of the sheet. These numbers are used to determine the most current sheet version on file with the Commission. For example, 4th Revised Sheet 14 cancels 3rd Revised Sheet 14.
- <u>C.</u> <u>Paragraph Numbering Sequence</u> There are nine levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level of coding.
 - 2. 2.1 2.1.1 2.1.1.A 2.1.1.A.1 2.1.1.A.1.(a) 2.1.1.A.1.(a).1 2.1.1.A.1.(a).1.(1) 2.1.1.A.1.(a).1.(I).(1)
- **D.** <u>Check Sheets-</u> When a tariff filing is made with the Commission, an updated check sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The check sheet lists the sheets contained in the tariff, with a cross reference to the current revision number. When new sheets are added, the check sheet is changed to reflect the revision. All revisions made in a given filing are designated by an asterisk (*). There will be no other symbols used on this sheet if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc., remains the same, just revised revision levels on some sheets). The tariff user should refer to the latest check sheet to find out if a particular sheet is the most current sheet on file with the Commission.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 6

Inter-exchange Service

Section 1 – Definition and Abbreviations

1.1 Definitions

<u>Application for Service</u> – A standard order form which includes all pertinent billing, technical, and other descriptive information which will enable the carrier to provide the communication service as required.

<u>Authorized User</u> – A person, firm, corporation, or other entity authorized by the customer to receive or send communications.

Busy Hour – The two consecutive half hours during which the greatest volume of traffic is handled.

<u>**Cancellation of Order**</u> – A customer initiated request to discontinue processing a service order, either in part or in its entirety, prior to its completion.

<u>Carrier –</u> Express Telephone Services, Inc., unless specifically stated otherwise.

<u>Company</u> – Express Telephone Services, Inc. also referred to as "Carrier".

<u>**Completed Calls**</u> – Completed calls are calls answered on the distance end. In the event a customer is charged for an incomplete call, the Company will issue a credit to the customer upon request.

<u>**Customer Provided Equipment**</u> – Terminal equipment provided by a customer.

Day Rate Period – 8:00 a.m. to 4:59 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 7

Inter- exchange Service

1.1 Definitions: (continued)

<u>Disconnect</u> – The disabling circuitry preventing outgoing and incoming toll communication service provided by Carrier.

<u>Due Date</u> – The last day for payment without unpaid amounts being subject to a late payment charge.

Evening Rate Period – 5:00 p.m. to 10:59 p.m., Sunday through Friday.

<u>Holidays</u> – Carrier's recognized holidays are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Interexchange Utility – A utility, resale carrier or other entity that provides intrastate telecommunications services and facilities between exchanges within the state, without regard to how such traffic is carried. A local exchange utility that provides exchange service may also be considered an interchange utility.

Local Distribution Area (LDA) – Metropolitan locations served by Carrier which have been defined by the telephone company providing local service in its local exchange tariff as "local calling area."

<u>Measured Use Service</u> – The provision of long distance measured time communications telephone service to customers who access the carrier's services at its switching and call processing equipment by means of access facilities obtained from another carrier by the customer or otherwise provided at its own expense (the customer is responsible for arranging for the access line).

Message – A completed telephone call by a customer or user.

<u>Network Terminal</u> – Any location where carrier provides services described herein.

Issued: February 24, 2004	Effective: March 25, 2004
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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 8

Inter- exchange Service

1.1 Definitions: (continued)

Night/Weekend Rate Period – 11 p.m. to 7:59 a.m., everyday; 8:00 a.m. to 10:59 p.m., Saturday; and 8:00 a.m. to 4:59 p.m. Sunday.

Normal Business Hours – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays

Premises – The space occupied by an individual customer in a building, in adjoining building occupied entirely by that customer, or on contiguous property occupied by the customer separated only by a public thoroughfare, a railroad right of way or a natural barrier.

Terminal Equipment – All telephone instruments, including pay telephone equipment, the common equipment of large and small key and PBX systems and other devices and apparatus, and associated wiring, which are intended to be connected electrically, acoustically or inductively to the telecommunications system of the telephone utility.

1.2 <u>Abbreviations</u>:

IXC - Inter exchange Carrier

LATA – Local Access Transport Area

LDA – Local Distribution Area

LEC – Local Exchange Carrier

MTS – Message Toll Service

PBX – Private Branch Exchange

V & H – Vertical and Horizontal

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 9

Inter-exchange Service

Section 2 – RULES AND REGULATIONS

2.1 Carrier Undertaking

Carrier provides long distance message toll telephone service to customers for their direct transmission of voice, data, and other types of telecommunications.

Communications originate when the customer accesses Carrier directly or through the facilities of the local service carrier via one or more access lines, equal access or on a dial up basis. Carrier may act as the customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities when authorized by the customer, to allow connection of a customer's location to the Carrier network. The customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service arrangements.

The company's services are provided on a monthly basis unless otherwise stated in this tariff, and are available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week.

- 2.2 Limitations on Service
- 2.2.1 Service is offered subject to the availability of the necessary facilities and/or equipment and subject to the provisions of this tariff.
- 2.2.2 Carrier reserves the right to discontinue furnishing service upon written notice, when necessitated by conditions beyond its control or when the customer is using the service in violation of the provisions of this tariff or in violation of the law.
- 2.2.3 Title to any equipment provided by Carrier under these regulations remains with Carrier. Prior written permission from the company is required before any assignment or transfer. All regulations and conditions contained in this tariff shall apply to any such assignee or transferee.

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Inter-exchange Service

2.3 Use of Service

Service may not be used for any unlawful purposes.

The minimum period for service is one month (30 days), unless otherwise noted in the customer's service agreement.

- 2.4 Limitations of Liability
- 2.4.1 The liability of the carrier for damages arising out of mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays errors or defects in transmission occurring in the course of furnishing service or other facilities and not caused by the negligence of the customer, commences upon activation of service and in no event exceeding an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the customer for the period of service during which the mistake, omission, interruption, delay, error or defect in transmission occurred. For the purpose of computing such amount, a month is considered to have 30 days.
- 2.4.2 The carrier is not liable for any act or omission of any other company or companies furnishing a portion of the service.
- 2.4.3 Carrier shall be indemnified and held harmless by the customer against all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the customer in connection with any service provided by the carrier.

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P.S.C. KY No.1 Original Sheet 11

Inter-exchange Service

2.4 Limitation of Liability (continued)

2.4.4 The carrier shall not be liable for and the customer indemnifies and holds the carrier harmless from any and all loss claims, demands, suits, or other action or liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by the customer or by any other party or persons, for any personal injury to, or death of, any person or persons, and for any loss, damage, defacement or destruction of the premises of the customer or any other property, whether owned by the customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, location or use of the equipment or wiring provided by the carrier where such installation, failure to operate, maintenance, condition, location or use is not the direct result of the carrier's negligence. No agents or employees of other carriers shall be deemed to be agents or employees of the carrier.

2.5 Interruption of Service

A credit allowance for interruptions of service which are not due to Carrier's testing or adjusting, to the negligence of the customer, or to the failure of the channels, equipment, and/or communications systems provided by the customer, are subject to the general liability provisions set forth herein. It shall be the obligation of the customer to notify Carrier of any interruption in service. Before giving such notice, the customer shall ascertain that the trouble is not being caused by any action or omission by or within the customer's control and is not is wiring or equipment connected to the Carrier terminal.

2.6 <u>Restoration of Service</u>

The use and restoration of service in emergencies shall be in accordance with the Part 64, Subpart D of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations which specifies the priority system for such activities.

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P.S.C. KY No.1 Original Sheet 12

Inter-exchange Service

2.7 <u>Customer Responsibility</u>

- 2.7.1 All customers assume general responsibilities in connection with the provisions and use of Carrier's service. When facilities, equipment, and/or communication systems provided by others are connected to Carrier's facilities, the customer assumes additional responsibilities. All customers are responsible for the following:
- A. The customer is responsible for placing orders for service, paying all charges for service rendered by Carrier and complying with all of Carrier's regulations governing the service. The customer is also responsible for assuring that its users comply with regulations.
- B. When placing an order for service, the customer must provide:
 - 1. The names and addresses of the person(s) responsible for the payment of service charges.
 - 2. The name(s), telephone number(s), and address(es) of the customer contact person(s).
- 2.7.2 Maintenance, Testing, and Adjustment

Upon reasonable notice, the equipment provided by Carrier shall be made available to Carrier for such tests and adjustments as may be necessary to maintain them in satisfactory condition. No interruption allowance will be granted for the time during which such tests and adjustments are made.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 13

Inter-exchange Service

2.7.3 Deposits

The Company does not require a deposit for prepaid services. For all other services, Applicants or Customers whose financial condition is unknown for unacceptable to Carrier may be required to pay a deposit. If actual usage data is available for gthe customer at the same or similar premises, the deposit amount shall be calculated using the customer's average bill for the most recent twelve (12) month period. If actual usage data is not available, the deposit amount shall be based on the average bills of similar customers and premises in the system, not to exceed to two (2) month's actual or estimated usage. If customer fails to pay for service or equipment, the deposit will be applied to the outstanding balance. If at any time, Carrier feels that the customer has established satisfactory credit, the Carrier will refund the amount of the deposit. In any event, deposits or remaining balance thereof will be returned upon termination of service.

Interest will accrue on customer deposits held by the company, beginning on the date the deposit is made.

2.7.4 <u>Credit Allowance</u>

Credit for failure of service or equipment will be allowed only when failure is caused by or occurs in equipment owned, provided and billed for, by Carrier.

- A. Credit allowances for failure of service or equipment starts when the customer notifies Carrier of the failure or when Carrier becomes aware of the failure and ceases when the operation has been restored and an attempt has been made to notify the customer.
- B. The customer shall notify Carrier of failures of service or equipment and make reasonable attempts to ascertain that the failure is not caused by customer provided facilities, any act, or omission of the customer or in wiring equipment connected to the terminal.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 14

Inter-exchange Service

2.7.4 Credit Allowance (continued)

- C. Only those portions of the service or equipment operation disabled will be credited. No credit allowances will be made for:
 - 1. Interruptions of service resulting from Carrier performing routine maintenance;
 - 2. Interruptions of service for implementation of a customer order for a change in the service;
 - 3. Interruptions caused by the negligence of the customer or his authorized user;
 - 4. Interruptions of service because of the failure of service or equipment due to customer or authorized user provided facilities.

2.7.5 Cancellation by Customer

If a customer orders services requiring special equipment and/or facilities dedicated to the customer's use and then cancels his order before the service begins, a charge will be made to the customer for the non-recoverable portions of expenditures or liabilities incurred expressly on behalf of the customer by Carrier and not fully reimbursed by installation and monthly charges. If, based on such an order, any construction has either begun or been completed, but no such services provided, the non- recoverable cost of such construction shall be borne by the customer.

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Inter-exchange Service

2.7.6 Payment and Billing

- A. Charges for prepaid services are collected in advance of the provision of service. Non- prepaid services are provided and billed on a monthly basis. Each customer bill will set forth the company's name, address, and toll free Customer Service telephone number which is available 24 hours per day. Each bill will list the charges for individual calls made and taxes will be listed as separate line items. The date after which a penalty may apply to the gross amount shall be indicated on the customer's bill.
- B. For prepaid services, payment is due prior to service being offered. For non prepaid services, payment is due upon receipt, but will be considered timely if paid within 20 days after the bill is rendered. The bill shall be considered rendered when deposited in the U.S. mail with postage prepaid.
- C. In the event of a dispute concerning a bill, Customer must pay a sum equal to the amount of the undisputed portion of the bill and proceed with complaint procedures set forth in this tariff.
- D. The customer is responsible for payment of all charges for service furnished to the customer under this tariff. Charges are based on actual usage during a month will be billed monthly in arrears.
- E. Customer is responsible for payment of any state and local taxes (i.e. gross receipts tax, sales tax, municipal utilities tax) which will be listed as separate line items and which are not included in the quoted rates.
- F. In accordance with KAR 5:006 Section 8 (3)(h), Customers failing to pay a bill for services by the due date will be charged a one-time late payment penalty on the amount owed for such services. Any payment received by the customer will first be applied to the bill for services rendered.

Effective: March 25, 2004

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Inter-exchange Service

2.7.7 Application of Charges

The charges for service are those charges in effect during the period in service was furnished.

2.7.8 Customer Complaint Procedure

Carrier will resolve any disputes brought to its attention as promptly and effectively as possible. Customer Service Representatives can be reached by dialing the toll free number set forth on all bills.

Any unresolved disputes may be directed to the attention of the Commission.

In the event of a dispute concerning an invoice, the customer must pay a sum equal to the amount of the undisputed portion of the bill and notify the Company of the disputed portion.

2.8 Carrier Responsibility

2.8.1 Calculation of Credit Allowance

Pursuant to limitations set forth herein, when service is interrupted the credit allowance will be computed on the following basis:

- A. No credit shall be allowed for interruptions of less than two hours.
- B. When a minimum usage charge is applicable and the customer fails to meet a usage minimum credit, the outage shall be applied against that minimum equal to 1/360th of the monthly minimum charges associated with the portion of service disabled for each period of two hours or major fraction thereof that the interruption continues beyond two hours.
- C. Carrier will try its best to resolve any disputes properly brought to its attention. Unresolved disputes may be directed to the attention of the Commission.

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Inter-exchange Service

2.8.2 Cancellation of Credit

Where Carrier cancels a service or the provision of equipment and the final service period is less than the monthly billing period, a credit will be issued for any amounts billed in advance, prorated at $1/30^{\text{th}}$ of the monthly recurring charge for each day the service was rendered or the equipment was provided. This credit will be issued to the customer or applied against the balance remaining on the customer's account.

2.8.3 Disconnection of Service by Carrier

Carrier, upon 10 days written notice to the customer, may discontinue service or cancel an application for service without incurring any liability for any of the following reasons:

- A. Non payment of any sum due to Carrier for service for more than thirty days beyond the date of rendition of the bill for such service.
- B. A violation of any regulation governing the service under this tariff.
- C. A violation of any law, rule, or regulation of any government authority having jurisdiction over the service.
- D. Carrier is prohibited from furnishing services by order of a court or other government authority having jurisdiction.
- E. Carrier may immediately terminate service, without notice if a dangerous condition exist which could subject a person to imminent harm.

2.8.4 Fractional Monthly Charges

Charges for a fractional part of am month are calculated by counting the number of days in the billing period service was discontinued. Divide the number of days by thirty days and then multiply by the monthly charge.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 18

Inter-exchange Service

SECTION 3 – DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE AND RATES

3.1 <u>Timing of Calls</u>

The customer's monthly usage charges for Carrier service are based upon the total number of minutes the customer uses and service options subscribed to. Chargeable time begins when the connection is established between the calling station and the called station or PBX. Chargeable time ends when the either party " hangs up."

There are no charges incurred if a call is not completed.

3.2 <u>Start of Billing</u>

The start of Service date is the first day which service is actually provided to the customer. The End of Service date is the last day or any portion thereof that service is provided to customer.

3.3 Interconnection

Services furnished by Carrier may be interconnected with services or facilities of other authorized communications common carriers and with private systems, subject to the technical limitations established by Carrier. Service furnished by Carrier is not part of a joint undertaking with such other carriers. Any special interface equipment of Carrier and other participating carriers shall be provided at the customer's expense.

The customer is responsible for taking all necessary legal steps for interconnecting his customer- provided terminal equipment or communications systems with Carrier's. The customer shall secure all licenses, permits, rights of ways, and other arrangements necessary for such interconnection.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 19

Inter-exchange Service

3.4 <u>Terminal Equipment</u>

Carrier's service may be used with or terminated in customer provided terminal equipment or customer provided communication systems, such as tele-printers, handsets, or data sets. Such terminal equipment will be furnished and maintained at the expense of the providing customer, except as otherwise agreed in advance and in writing. The customer is responsible for all costs at their premises, including personnel, wiring, electrical power, and the like incurred in the use of Carrier's service. When such terminal equipment is used, the equipment shall comply with the generally accepted minimum protective criteria standards of the telecommunications industry.

3.5 Calculation of Distance

Usage charges are generally flat rated. However, if a rate is based on the airline mileage between points, the calculations are made as follows:

The airline mileage between rate centers is determined by applying the formula below to the vertical and horizontal coordinates associated with the rate centers involved. The company uses the rate centers and associated vertical and horizontal coordinates defined by AT&T in its FCC tariff No. 10.

Formula: (V1 - V2) + (H1 - H2) / 10

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 20

Inter-exchange Service

3.6 Minimum Call Completion Rate

The customer can expect a call completion rate of 99% of calls attempted during peak use periods for all Feature Group D (1+) services.

3.7 <u>Special Services</u>

For the purpose of this tariff, a Special Service is deemed to be any service requested by the customer for which there is no prescribed rate in this tariff. Special Services charges will be developed on an individual case basis and submitted to the Commission for prior approval.

Special Service charges will be based on the cost of furnishing such services including the cost of operating and maintaining such a service, the cost of equipment and materials used in providing such a service, the cost of installation including engineering, labor supervision, transportation, and the cost of any other specific item associated with the particular Special Service request.

3.8 Service Offerings

The Company provides the following services:

3.8.1 Message Toll Service (MTS)

Dialing is achieved by customer's telephone lines being programmed by the local telephone company (LEC) to automatically route 1+calls to the Company's network.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 21

Inter-exchange Service

3.8.2 Inbound 800/888 Service

Inbound 800/888 Service is virtual banded inbound toll service which permits calls to be completed at the subscriber's location without charge to the calling party. Access to the service is gained by dialing a ten digit telephone number which terminates at the customer's location. Inbound 800/888 services originate via normal shared use facilities and are terminated via the customers' local exchange service access line.

Carrier will accept a prospective Inbound 800/888 service customer's request for up to ten (10) 800/888 telephone numbers and will reserve such number(s) on a first come first serve basis. All requests for 800/888 number reservations must be made in writing, dated and signed by a responsible representative of the customer. Carrier does not guarantee the availability of number(s) until assigned. The 800/888 service telephone number(s) so requested, if found to be available, will be reserved for and furnished to the eligible customer.

If a customer who has received a number does not subscribe to Inbound 800/888 service within 90 days, the company reserves the right to make the assigned number available for use by another customer.

3.8.3 Pre-paid Card Service

Prepaid Calling Card Service is voice grade switched telecommunications service that allows an end user to place calls charged to prepaid cards issued by the company. The end user accesses the network by dialing an 800 number printed on the back of the card via a touch-tone telephone. Cards are offered in varying dollar amounts.

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 22

Inter-exchange Service

3.8.4 Directory Assistance

The company will provide requesting customers with listed telephone numbers at a per call charge.

3.8.5 **Operator Service**

Operator Assisted Services are provided by and billed by the Company's underlying carrier.

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Issued: February 24, 2004

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 23

Inter-exchange Service

SECTION 4 – RATES AND CHARGES

4.1 Usage Charges and Billing Increments

4.1 Usage Charges

Unless flat rated, usage charges are determined by the time of day rate periods and minutes of use within each rate period. The rate period is determined by the time and day of call origination at the customer's location.

4.1.2 Billing Increments

Usage is billed in accordance with the billing increments set forth in the individual set forth in the individual product rate sections of this tariff. All partial usage will be rounded up to the next highest applicable billing increment.

4.1.3 Rounding

All calls are rounded to the next highest billing interval. Any partial cents per call will be rounded up to the next highest whole cent.

Issued: February 24, 2004

Issued By: Robert L. Wilson, Jr./ CEO Express Telephone Services, Inc. 6331 Grapevine Highway Suite 250 North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

Effective: March 25, 2004

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P.S.C. KY No. 1 Original Sheet 24

Inter-exchange Service

4.2 <u>Switched Access Outbound Rates</u>

Long distance service offered without the Company's prepaid local exchange service.

\$25.00 per month for unlimited long distance in designated areas. 0.35 cents per call if not on the prepaid plan Billed in whole minute increments.

4.3 Prepaid Switched Access Outbound Package Rates

Long distance service offered in conjunction with the Company's prepaid local exchange service.

60 minutes: \$10.00 120 minutes: \$20.00 180 minutes: \$30.00

Billed in whole minute increments.

4.6 <u>Directory Assistance</u>

The Company's customers will be billed the following per call charge to be connected to the local exchange company directory assistance service for directory assistance calls within the State.

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4.8 Special Promotions

Carrier may from time to time offer special promotions to customers upon prior Commission approval of such promotion.

4.9 Pay Telephone (Payphone) Surcharge

A surcharge shall be assessed for each call made from a pay telephone to an 800 number or using a travel card and dialing the carrier prefix in the form 101XXXX. Although collected on the customer's bill, this charge is reimbursed to the pay telephone service provider. The initial charge is \$ 0.40 per call, but may vary from time to time as the Federal Communications Commission or payphone service providers change the rate for pay telephone compensation.

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PO Box 917002 Haltom City, TX 76117

(800)844-6525 / (800)536-7515

***** EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY *****

To better accommodate you as our customer, we assigned you a customer number that replaces your account number. Please use this new number when calling about your account or paying your bill. Your customer number is located at the bottom of your bill.

For any questions about your number, please contact our Customer Service Department, 1-800-844-6525.

Juan R Castro 8700 Broadway St Houston TX 77061-2262

CUSTOMER #211165	SUMMARY	SERVICE DETAILS	AMOUN
Invoice Date	02/03/2004	(713)645-8008 Family Rate from 02/14/2004 to 03/13/2004	19.99
Due Date	02/29/2004	Ťotal Option Charges for(713)645-8008 Total Taxes and Surcharges for (713)645-8008 Change Service On Jan 9 2004	10.00 17.08 39.00
Previous Balance	47.13		
Payments and Adjustments	47.12	•	
Current Activity Charges	86.07		
Total Amount Due	86.08		

Pay your bill online at www.expresstelephone.com

Please detach and return this portion with your payment payable to: Express Telephone Services. Please put your account number on your payment.



PO Box 917002 Haltom City, TX 76117

Customer Name

Invoice Date Customer Number Due Date Total Amount Due 02/03/2004 211165 02/29/2004 86.08

Juan R Castro 8700 Broadway St Houston TX 77061-2262

Exp Signature
Please check this box if you want to receive your statement in Spanish instead of English.
Express Telephone Services PO Box 917002 Haltom City, TX 76117

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0000577762000008608



PO Box 917002 Haltom City, TX 76117 (800)844-6525 / (800)536-7515

***** EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY *****

To better accommodate you as our customer, we assigned you a customer number that replaces your account number. Please use this new number when calling about your account or paying your bill. Your customer number is located at the bottom of your bill.

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Juan R Castro 8700 Broadway St Houston TX 77061-2262

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Pay your bill online at www.expresstelephone.com

Please detach and return this portion with your payment payable to: Express Telephone Services. Please put your account number on your payment.



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