

Minimum Monthly Fee Some telephone companies may have a minimum amount you must spend within a calling plan they offer. This is not the same as a monthly fee. If the calling plan requires that you spend \$10 per month but you only made \$5 worth of calls, the telephone company will charge you the difference between the monthly minimum and the dollar amount of calls made or in this example an additional \$5.

National Access Fee See *Carrier Line Charge*

Number Portability Service Charge See *Local Number Portability*

PUC Public Utilities Commission, State Capitol Building, Pierre SD 57501. Call 800-332-1782

Payphone Access Fee Payphone service providers must be compensated for toll free calls made through payphones. Most long distance companies pass this charge on to your long distance bill for calling card calls placed from a payphone or toll free calls received by you from a payphone. This is not a tax, and can vary from company to company.

Presubscribed Line Charge See *Carrier Line Charge*

Regulatory Related Charge See *Carrier Line Charge*

Relay Charge (Also called *Telecommunications Relay Services, 711 Service Fee*) The South Dakota Legislature has authorized a 15 cent monthly fee to help with the cost of providing special equipment for deaf, severely hearing impaired, or speech impaired individuals to have access to the telephone system.

State and Local Taxes (Also called *Gross Receipts Tax Surcharge, State Additional Charges, Interstate Tax Surcharge, State Universal Service Fund, State Infrastructure Maintenance Fee*) State

and local governments assess various taxes on service. These taxes may vary by your location.

State Infrastructure Maintenance Fee See *State and Local Taxes*

Subscriber Line Charge See *Federal Subscriber Line Charge*

SLC See *Federal Subscriber Line Charge*

Telecommunications Relay Services See *Relay Charge*

Universal Service Charge See *USF*

Universal Service Fund Charge See *USF*

Unregulated Services Local telephone companies may offer optional services to their customers. Such services may include Caller ID, Call Forwarding, and Inside Wire Repair Plans. These services are not required. Since they are optional services, they are not regulated.

USF (Also called *Universal Service Fund Charge, Universal Service Charge, Carrier Universal Service Charge*) All companies providing telephone service between states must contribute to a fund which helps to provide affordable access to telephone service to consumers with low incomes, consumers living in areas where the cost to provide service is extremely high, and also to schools, libraries, and rural health care providers. The telephone companies are allowed to recover these costs from their customers. The companies are also allowed to determine the method used to recover the charges.

**South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol•Pierre SD 57501
1-800-332-1782
www.puc.sd.gov**

Understanding Your Telephone Bill

*.....telephone terms
appearing on your billing*



**South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol • Pierre SD 57501
1-800-332-1782 • www.puc.sd.gov**

Telephone billings cause confusion when the terminology includes unfamiliar words. The following is a listing of some of the terms you may encounter as you study your telephone billing:

211 Service Fee This fee may be added for access to community information and referral services.

711 Service Fee See *Relay Charge*.

911 Service Fee This fee is charged by a local body of government to support the cost of emergency telephone service. The telephone company collects the fee and remits it to the local body of government in which the telephone number is located. The South Dakota Legislature has authorized a maximum fee of 75 cents per local line.

Carrier Line Charge (Also called *National Access Fee, LD Line Charge, Presubscribed Line Charge, Regulatory Related Charge, FCC Primary Carrier 1st Line*) When a consumer selects long distance for their telephone number, the long distance company pays the local telephone company a fee. This fee compensates the local telephone company for costs associated with the "local loop." The long distance company is allowed to recover these costs from their customers. The method of recovering this fee will vary from company to company. Some companies do not charge the fee as a separate line item, instead the costs are part of the long distance charges. If you don't have a long distance company selected, the local company may charge this fee.

Carrier Universal Service Charge See *USF*

Customer Line Charge See *Federal Subscriber Line Charge*

FCC Federal Communications Commission. The agency in charge of interstate telecommunications service. For complaints and inquires contact:

Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, 445 12th St. SW, Washington, DC 20554; or email fccinfo@fcc.gov; or call 202-418-7534 or toll-free 888-225-5322.

FCC Approved Customer Line Charge See *Federal Subscriber Line Charge*

FCC Primary Carrier 1st Line See *Carrier Line Charge*

Federal Access Charge See *Federal Subscriber Line Charge*

Federal Excise Tax See *Federal Tax*

FET See *Federal Excise Tax*

Federal Tax (Also called *FET, Federal Excise Tax*) This is a tax which appears on your local AND long distance phone bills. It is a percentage charge which all companies charge and remit to the federal government.

Federal Subscriber Line Charge (Also called *Federal Access Charge, Customer Line Charge, Interstate Access Charge, Interstate Single Line Charge, FCC Approved Customer Line Charge, Subscriber Line Charge or SLC*) This is a federally ordered charge billed by your local telephone company used to pay some of the cost the local telephone company has when providing a phone line to your home or business. It is designed to help local phone companies recover the cost of providing "local loops" which refer to telephone cables, wires, underground conduit, telephone poles, and other equipment connecting you to the telephone network. This is not a tax. It is a charge that is part of the price you pay to your local telephone company. Neither the FCC, PUC nor any other governmental agency receives the Federal Subscriber Line Charge. The FCC does place a maximum cap on this charge.

Inside Wire Repair Plan Consumers are

responsible for repair or maintenance of telephone wires inside the walls of their residence or business. Some local telephone companies offer an optional plan in which customers pay a monthly fee to help cover any potential repair costs. (Consumers using rented facilities may not want this service. Landlords are usually responsible for such repairs.)

Interstate Access Charge See *Federal Subscriber Line Charge*

Interstate Single Line Charge See *State and Local Taxes*

LD Line Charge See *Federal Subscriber Line Charge*

LNP See *Local Number Portability*

Line-Backer See *Inside Wire Repair Plan*

Local Loop This refers to telephone cables, wires, underground conduit, telephone poles, and other equipment connecting you to the telephone central office.

Local Number Portability (Also called *Number Portability Service Charge or LNP*) This fee allows local telephone companies to recover costs associated with upgrading their networks to allow consumers to retain their existing telephone number when switching to a different local telephone company or wireless carrier. Local companies are allowed, but not required, to pass on these costs. They are allowed to charge this fee for five years. This is not a tax; it is a charge that is part of the price you pay to your local telephone company. The rate was approved by the FCC.

Plan Fee Telephone companies offer a variety of calling plans. Some plans may charge a monthly fee and offer a lower per minute rate. Other plans charge a higher per minute rate with no plan fees.