

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PROVIDIAN GROUP, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)	ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
)	TC96-203

On December 20, 1996, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, received an application for a certificate of authority from Providian Group, LLC (Providian).

Providian intends to offer 1+ direct dialing, 800 (toll-free), travel card, and prepaid calling card services. A proposed tariff was filed by Providian. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On December 26, 1996, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 10, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and a regularly scheduled February 11, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered Providian's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Providian not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Providian has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Providian has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission approves Providian's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Providian not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Providian's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective February 20, 1997, subject to the condition that Providian not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Providian shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of February, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: _____

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER,
Commissioner

[CC99orders/includepgs/bottomlinks_insidepg.htm]