

## GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF #2

BRUCE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.  
TC-003-0014-00

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Rates, terms, and conditions for the deregulated services may be found in the Bruce Telephone Company Customer Service Agreement and its Price List located online in the Company's website at [www.brucetelephone.com](http://www.brucetelephone.com).

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ISSUED: November 16, 2020

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2021

BY: Christa L. Alexander, Vice President of Operations

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### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This tariff, General Exchange Tariff #2, is cancelling and replacing in its entirety General Exchange Tariff #1.

Effective January 1, 2021, the details of services provided by Bruce Telephone Company, Inc. which were previously contained in this tariff are no longer provided pursuant to tariffs filed with the Mississippi Public Service Commission. The two exceptions to this are the 1) Lifeline Assistance Program, and 2) Intrastate Interexchange Access Service. The rates, terms, and conditions for the deregulated services may be found in the Bruce Telephone Company Customer Service Agreement and its Price List located online in the Company's website at [www.brucetelephone.com](http://www.brucetelephone.com).

This tariff contains regulations and rates applicable to the provision of the Lifeline Assistance Program and switched access services offered by Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.

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**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

Rates, terms, and conditions for the deregulated services may be found in the Bruce Telephone Company Customer Service Agreement and its Price List located online in the Company's website at [www.brucetelephone.com](http://www.brucetelephone.com).

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**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE MAP**

Rates, terms, and conditions for the deregulated services may be found in the Bruce Telephone Company Customer Service Agreement and its Price List located online in the Company's website at [www.brucetelephone.com](http://www.brucetelephone.com).

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**SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES**

Rates, terms, and conditions for the deregulated services may be found in the Bruce Telephone Company Customer Service Agreement and its Price List located online in the Company's website at [www.brucetelephone.com](http://www.brucetelephone.com).

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### SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

#### LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

##### GENERAL

The Company, as part of its obligations as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, offers a low-income assistance program. This program, Lifeline Assistance, is offered under the terms and conditions provided below:

1. Lifeline Assistance

A. General

1. Lifeline Assistance is a non-transferable retail service offering for which qualifying residential low-income subscribers pay reduced charges, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible participating subscribers to pay reduced charges for either voice telephone service (voice), broadband internet access service (broadband), or bundled voice and broadband services.
2. Voice telephone service includes the following services: voice-grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; local usage; access to emergency services; and toll limitation.
3. Broadband service includes the following: the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up service.

B. Regulations

A subscriber is eligible for Lifeline Assistance if:

1. The subscriber's household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or
2. The subscriber or another member of the subscriber's household, receives benefits from one or more of the following qualifying federal programs:
  - a. Medicaid
  - b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly "Food Stamps"
  - c. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - d. Veterans Pension and Survivor Benefit Programs
  - e. Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)

*\*NOTE: These terms and conditions have been in place since August 1, 2020.*

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### SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

#### LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (continued)

1. Lifeline Assistance (continued)
  - B. Regulations (continued)
    3. In addition to meeting the qualifications provided in paragraph 1. or 2. of this section (1.B), in order to constitute a qualifying low-income customer, a customer must not already be receiving a Lifeline service (voice or broadband from either a wireless provider or fixed provider), and there must not be anyone else in the subscriber's economic household subscribed to a Lifeline service. Further, to receive a Lifeline Benefit for a broadband connection, the customer must subscribe to a broadband service that meets the minimum service standards set forth in section 54.408 of the FCC rules.
    4. The Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) has implemented the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier through which all Lifeline applicants must be approved. To become a recipient of Lifeline benefits, subscribers must apply directly with USAC via paper forms to be mailed in by the applicant or apply via the Lifeline National Verifier Consumer Portal or Carrier Portal.
    5. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription of voice Lifeline Assistance to receive toll limitation as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll limitation" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to permit the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.
    6. Voice Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges unless the Company offers toll limitation without charge.
    7. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate voice-only Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company or if the qualifying low-income subscriber elects a calling plan that does not distinguish between toll and non-toll calls in its pricing. If toll blocking is unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit.

*\*NOTE: These terms and conditions have been in place since august 1, 2020.*

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### SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

#### LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (continued)

1. Lifeline Assistance (continued)
  - B. Regulations (continued)
    8. Only one Lifeline service is available per residential household pursuant to FCC Order 12-11. A household is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An “economic unit” consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. When an adult having no or minimal income and living with someone who provides financial support to them, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers.
    9. A Lifeline customer may subscribe to any local service offering available to other residential customers.
    10. The PIC charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers who subscribe to toll blocking and do not presubscribe to a long-distance carrier.
    11. If an eligible customer chooses the support for voice service, then the Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the Administrator of the federal Lifeline Assistance program to waive the qualifying customer’s Subscriber Line Charge. The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer’s basic local exchange service rate.
    12. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers who choose the support for voice service shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding charges.

*\*NOTE: These terms and conditions have been in place since august 1, 2020.*

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### SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

#### LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (continued)

1. Lifeline Assistance (continued)

C. Credits

1. The following bill credits will apply for each eligible customer who qualifies for and is enrolled in Lifeline Assistance.
  - a. The Lifeline benefit for broadband service or bundled voice and broadband services meeting the minimum service standards is \$9.25 monthly.
  - b. The Lifeline benefit for voice services or bundled voice and broadband services that do not meet the minimum service standards will adhere to the following schedule.
    - i. December 1, 2019, the support amount decreases to \$7.25 per month.
    - ii. December 1, 2020, the support amount decreases to \$5.25 per month.
    - iii. On November 4, 2021, the FCC rescinded its mandate for December 1, 2021, which was to provide zero support for voice-only Lifeline participants and for those not meeting the minimum broadband service standards. The FCC plans to discontinue supporting voice-only Lifeline subscribers and those not meeting the minimum broadband service standard on December 1, 2022. Until that time the benefit amount for this class of subscriber is \$5.25. (T)
2. The benefit amount will not exceed the basic charge for local telephone service, which includes the Subscriber Line Charge, access line, and local usage. (T)
3. (D)

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**SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES**

2. Link-Up

*The Link-Up Assistance Program for non-tribal lands has been discontinued pursuant to FCC Order 12-11.*

*\*NOTE: These terms and conditions have been in place since August 1, 2020.*

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**GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF**

Rates, terms, and conditions for the deregulated services may be found in the Bruce Telephone Company Customer Service Agreement and its Price List located online in the Company's website at [www.brucetelephone.com](http://www.brucetelephone.com).

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**CONNECTION WITH CUSTOMER PROVIDED EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

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**LINE EXTENSION CHARGES**

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**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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**DEFINITIONS**

Rates, terms, and conditions for the deregulated services may be found in the Bruce Telephone Company Customer Service Agreement and its Price List located online in the Company's website at [www.brucetelephone.com](http://www.brucetelephone.com).

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### INTRASTATE INTEREXCHANGE CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

The company concurs in the rates, rules, and regulations in effect as of July 1, 1997, of the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) Interstate Access Services tariff for interstate use, and makes itself a party to such rates and charges until this concurrence is revoked or canceled by the Company. The Company hereby expressly reserves the right to cancel this statement of concurrence at any time when it appears that such cancellation is in the best interest of the Company subject to the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Public Service Commission as it applies. The NECA Interstate Access Charge Tariff was filed with the FCC by the NECA on behalf of the NECA member companies. (This Company is a member of the NECA.) The traffic sensitive rates and charges shall apply to all terminating traffic transported over BellSouth facilities pursuant to interconnection or resale arrangements between BellSouth and other telecommunications providers. Exceptions to this adoption of the tariff schedules are as follows:

#### EXCEPTIONS:

- 1) Section 4 – End User Charge – FCC End User Charges Do Not Apply
- 2) The carrier common line charge is:

	<u>Rate</u>
Originating, per MOU	\$0.04280
Terminating, per MOU	\$0.04330

The above exceptions and rates will remain in effect until such time the Company implements IntraLATA 1+ Subscription (IntraLATA Toll Dialing Parity) services.

Upon implementation of IntraLATA 1+ Subscription (intraLATA toll dialing parity) by the Company, the rates, rules, and regulations in effect as of July 1, 1997, of the NECA Interstate Access Services tariff will apply for intrastate use. The traffic sensitive rates and charges shall apply to all terminating traffic transported over BellSouth facilities pursuant to interconnection or resale arrangements between BellSouth and other telecommunication providers. Exceptions to this adoption of the tariff schedules are as follows:

*\*NOTE: These rates were in place on January 17, 1999.*

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### INTRASTATE INTEREXCHANGE CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

#### EXCEPTIONS:

- 1) Section 17.1.2 End User Common Line Charge - FCC End User charges do not apply
- 2) Section 17.1.1 Carrier Common Line. The Carrier Common Line charge is:

Rates

- |                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Originating, per MOU   | \$0.0428 |
| Terminating, per MOU ① | \$0.0000 |
- 3) Section 17.2.3.A Local Switching. The Local Switching rate is:

Local Switching, per Originating MOU	\$0.040189
Local Switching, per Terminating MOU ①	\$0.0000
  - 4) Residual Interconnection Charge. The rate is:

Terminating MOU ①	\$0.00000
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  - 5) Predesignated Interexchange Carrier (PIC) Change Charge – Submitted using manual methods (one jurisdiction) \$5.50
  - 6) PIC Submitted using manual methods when both the interLATA PIC and intraLATA PIC selections are changed simultaneously, each jurisdiction. \$2.75

Intrastate Billing and Collection will be provided on a per billed message basis, with full recourse of any uncollectible or unbillable message to the toll carrier at the following rate:

Per billed message:	\$0.1123
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- ① Originating and terminating access rates are filed in compliance with FCC Order 11 161, dated November 18, 2011, 51.505(b)(2) and FCC Order 12-47.

*\*NOTE: These rates were in place on July 1, 2020.*

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**RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

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**RURAL ILEC DEREGULATION PLAN**

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