

#### FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Capital Circle Office Center ● 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

#### MEMORANDUM

#### January 8, 1998

- TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYO)
- FROM: DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (BOWMAN, K. PENA) DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (BIEGALSKI)
- RE: DOCKET NO. 971489-TI INITIATION OF SHOW CAUSE PROCEEDING AGAINST HOME OWNERS LONG DISTANCE INCORPORATED FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.118, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, INTEREXCHANGE CARRIER SELECTION
- AGENDA: 01/20/98 <u>REGULAR AGENDA</u> INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: S:\PSC\CMU\WP\971489TI.RCM

#### CASE BACKGROUND

On August 17, 1993, the Commission granted Home Owners Long Distance Incorporated (Home Owners) certificate number 3189 to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications service.

Thereafter, from May 9, 1994, until December 31, 1997, the Commission's Division of Consumer Affairs has closed 214 complaints against Home Owners as unauthorized carrier change (slamming) infractions in apparent violation of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. Other complaints have been received by the Division of Consumer Affairs and are pending a response from Home Owners.

Home Owners uses a sweepstakes entry form (used as a letter of authorization) as a method of obtaining new long distance customers. Staff requested a sweepstakes display from Home Owners, but to date, the display has not been received. Based on the numerous consumer complaints, it appears that the forms Home Owners uses for its sweepstakes entries in combination with the sweepstakes display are misleading and deceptive. NUTher consumers



FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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thought they were signing up only to enter a sweepstakes, not to change their long distance service provider. It appears that Home Owners is submitting numerous preferred interexchange carrier (PIC) changes with forged customer signatures. In addition, in some instances, the name and address listed on the letter of authorization (LOA) is not the same as the address assigned to the person authorized to make the decision regarding the long distance service.

In light of the numerous complaints received from consumers, the allegations of false and misleading sweepstakes advertising and the claims of forgery, it is staff's opinion that Home Owners has violated Commission rules and has not established any safeguards to protect consumers from unauthorized carrier changes. Therefore, staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

#### DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

**ISSUE 1:** Should the Commission order Home Owners Long Distance Incorporated to show cause why it should not have Certificate Number 3189 canceled or be fined \$10,000 per violation for a total of \$2,140,000 for failure to comply with Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, Interexchange Carrier Selection?

**<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u>** Home Owners' certificate number 3189 should not be canceled at this time. The Commission should order Home Owners to show cause in writing within 20 days of the effective date of the order why it should not be fined \$10,000 per violation for a total of \$2,140,000 for failure to comply with Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. Any collected fine monies should be forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the state General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. (Biegalski)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Staff believes that a fine is more appropriate than canceling certificate number 3189 at this time, because this is the first docketed show cause proceeding against this company. If the company can make corrections to its business practices and comply with the rules, staff believes that the company should be allowed to continue to operate in the State of Florida.

Home Owners uses sweepstakes display boxes with separable packets of LOAs attached. The LOA form that staff received from a complainant appears to be in violation of Rule 25-4.118(3)(b),

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Florida Administrative Code. The statement required by the rule is not in a text size at least as large as any other text on the document.

Rule 25-4.118(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code, requires in pertinent part:

The page of the document containing the customer's signature shall contain a statement that the customer's signature or endorsement on the document will result in a change of the customer's long distance service provider and explain that only one long distance service provider may be designated for the telephone number listed; that the customer's selection will apply only to that number, and that the customer's local exchange company may charge a fee to switch service providers. Such statement shall be clearly legible and printed in type at least as large as any other text on the page. [emphasis added]

Another apparent violation of Rule 25-4.118(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code, is that the document as a whole appears to be misleading or deceptive. Staff believes that the sweepstakes display combined with the attached LOA is misleading because many customers thought they were only entering a sweepstakes. According to Rule 25-4.118(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code, in pertinent part:

If any such document is not used solely for the purpose of requesting a PIC change, then the document as a whole must not be misleading or deceptive. For purposes of this rule, the terms "misleading or deceptive" mean that, because of the style, format or content of the document, it would not be readily apparent to the person signing the document that the purpose of the signature was to authorize a PIC change, or it would be unclear to the customer who the new long distance service provider would be; that the customer's selection would apply only to the number listed and there could only be one long distance service provider for that number; or that the customer's local exchange company might charge a fee to switch service providers. [emphasis added]

The Division of Consumer Affairs received its first slamming complaint logged against Home Owners on May 9, 1994, approximately nine months after the company received its certificate. Since that time, the Division of Consumer Affairs has closed a total of 214 consumer complaints against Home Owners as unauthorized carrier change (slamming) infractions through December 31, 1997. Home Owners responded to some of the slamming complaints by stating that it received no adverse response to the confirmation letter and therefore, considered the application valid.

Examples of complaints received from consumers include the following:

On May 30, 1997, Mr. and Mrs. Russo's attorney, Mr. Garry Nelson, advised staff that their long distance service was switched without authorization. He stated that they did not realize they had been switched until they received their telephone bill. Home Owners' report stated that the company received a LOA signed by Mr. Reynaldo Batisto, listing a different address and telephone number. The company considered it to be valid and forwarded it to BellSouth. Further investigation determined there had been a data entry error and Home Owners switched the wrong customer. (Attachment A, Pages 7-22)

On March 25, 1997, Mr. Vonnie Jones advised staff that his long distance service was switched without authorization. Home Owners' report stated that the company received a LOA signed by Mr. Jesse Miller III. Further investigation determined that the signature on the LOA did not match the person authorized to make decisions regarding the long distance service. (Attachment B, Pages 23-26)

On March 14, 1997, Mr. Ashwani Wadhwa advised staff that his long distance service was switched without authorization. He stated he realized the change when he received his telephone bill. Home Owners' report stated that the company received a LOA signed by Mr. Witin Wadhwa. The company considered it to be valid and forwarded it to BellSouth for processing. Mr. Wadhwa notified staff that Witin Wadhwa is a minor and is not authorized to make any long distance service changes.

According to Rule 25-4.118(2), Florida Administrative Code, in pertinent part:

A certified IXC that will be billing in its name may submit a PIC change request, other than a customerinitiated PIC change, directly or through another IXC, to a LEC only if it has certified to the LEC that at least one of the following actions has occurred prior to the PIC change request: (a) the IXC has on hand a ballot or letter from the customer requesting such change.

Since Witin Wadhwa is not the customer of record for the telephone number listed on the LOA, the LOA is invalid. (Attachment C, Pages 27-37) This is a common example of how the sweepstakes entry method of switching a person's long distance service can result in a slam.

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Many persons attending fairs, flea markets, home shows, and other events that have sweepstakes boxes present are slammed because they are signing many different entries to obtain free giveaway products and are not expecting to be given something to sign that will result in their long distance service being switched.

On March 13, 1996, Mr. Thomas Clark notified staff that his long distance service was switched without authorization. Home Owners stated in its report to staff that the company received a LOA signed by Mr. Clark. The company considered it to be valid and forwarded it to BellSouth for processing. Upon receipt of a copy of the LOA, Mr. Clark notified staff that the signature on the LOA was not his. Mr. Clark's signature on the letter he submitted to staff clearly does not match the signature on the LOA. It appears that the signature is a forgery. (Attachment D, Pages 38-43)

Home Owners has not satisfied staff that it is in compliance with the Commission's rules. Accordingly, by Section 364.285, Florida Statutes, the Commission is authorized to impose upon any entity subject to its jurisdiction a penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each day a violation continues, if such entity is found to have refused to comply with or to have willfully violated any lawful rule or order of the Commission, or any provision of chapter 364. Utilities are charged with knowledge of the Commission's rules and statutes. Additionally, "[i]t is a common maxim, familiar to all minds, that 'ignorance of the law' will not excuse any person, either civilly or criminally." <u>Barlow v. United States</u>, 32 U.S. 404, 411 (1833).

Staff believes that Home Owners' apparent conduct in switching PICs without customer authorization has been "willful" in the sense intended by Section 364.285, Florida Statutes. In Order No. 24306, issued April 1, 1991, in Docket No. 890216-TL titled <u>In re:</u> <u>Investigation Into The Proper Application of Rule 25-14.003,</u> <u>Florida Administrative Code, Relating To Tax Savings Refund for</u> <u>1988 and 1989 For GTE Florida, Inc.</u>, having found that the company had not intended to violate the rule, the Commission nevertheless found it appropriate to order it to show cause why it should not be fined, stating that "In our view, willful implies intent to do an act, and this is distinct from intent to violate a rule." Thus, any intentional act, such as Home Owners' conduct at issue here, would meet the standard for a "willful violation."

Based on the number of complaints received by the Division of Consumer Affairs, and the 214 complaints closed by the Division of Consumer Affairs as unauthorized carrier change infractions (slamming), staff believes that Home Owners does not have adequate safeguards to protect consumers from unauthorized carrier changes. Accordingly, staff believes that there is sufficient cause to order DOCKET NO. 971489-TI DATE: January 8, 1998

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Home Owners to show cause in writing within 20 days of the effective date of the order why it should not be fined \$10,000 per infraction for a total of \$2,140,000 for its apparent violations of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code.

**ISSUE 2:** Should this docket be closed?

**RECOMMENDATION:** If staff's recommendation in Issue 1 is approved, then Home Owners will have 20 days from the issuance of the Commission's show cause order to respond in writing why it should not be fined in the amount proposed. If Home Owners timely responds to the show cause order, this docket should remain open pending resolution of the show cause proceeding. If Home Owners does not respond to the Commission's Order to Show Cause, the fines should be assessed. While staff does not recommend in Issue 1 that Home Owners' certificate be canceled for slamming violations at this time, staff does recommend that if Home Owners fails to respond to the Order to Show Cause, and the fines are not received within five business days after the expiration of the show cause response period, Home Owners' certificate should be canceled and this docket closed administratively. (Bowman, K. Peña)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If staff's recommendation in Issue 1 is approved, then Home Owners will have 20 days from the issuance of the Commission's show cause order to respond in writing why it should not be fined in the amount proposed or have its certificate If Home Owners timely responds to the show cause order, canceled. this docket should remain open pending resolution of the show cause proceeding. If Home Owners does not respond to the Commission's Order to Show Cause, the fines should be assessed. While staff does not recommend in Issue 1 that Home Owners' certificate be canceled for slamming violations at this time, staff does recommend that if Home Owners fails to respond to the Order to Show Cause, and the fines are not received within five business days after the expiration of the show cause response period, Home Owners' certificate should be canceled and this docket closed administratively.

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## ATTACHMENT A DOCKET NO. 971489-TI GARRY NELSON **JANUARY 8, 1998**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Licensed in U.S.A. (FL.) and Brazil

One Brickell Square 9th Floor 801 Brickell Avenue Miami, Florida 33131

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Phone (305) 374-2002 Fax (305) 285-1982

CONSUMER

July 1, 1997

Attn.: Billing Dept. **BellSouth** 600 NW 79th Avenue Miami FL 33126

FFAIRS CERTIFIED MAIL P 368 612 759 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

(305) 858-1921, (305) 858-2863; charges resulting from "slam" Re: by HOLD.

Dear Billing Department:

This office represents Mr. and Mrs. Nicola Russo. We sent the enclosed letter to your offices in New Orleans, as well as to Hold, in San Antonio TX, on May 30, 1997. We also sent the same letter by fax to BellSouth on June 3, 1997 (Attn. Lina, position 1183), and spoke about this matter with Eva Johnson on June 12, 1997. To this date, we have received no answer from BellSouth nor from HOLD.

In the meantime, BellSouth not only keeps charging my client, on HOLD's behalf, but has also reported my client to a credit bureau, damaging Mr. Russo's credit. As he has done before, Mr. Russo has sent the payment for the portion of the bill concerning BellSouth directly to your office in Charlotte NC (in the amount of \$130.80, see copy herewith).

We hereby request that BellSouth cancel the amounts charged by HOLD on Mr. Russo's above-referenced BellSouth account and request that HOLD deal with us directly. I believe BellSouth and HOLD owe my client at least an answer.

If we do not hear from you or HOLD on this matter, my client has authorized us to hire a litigator and take all necessary legal action to resolve this matter.

We are also sending a copy of this letter with enclosures to the Florida Public Services Commission, for their investigation.

Sincérelv fy Nelson

GN/vn Encl.

cc: Mr. and Mrs. Nicola Russo Florida Public Services Commission

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NICOLA PAOLO RUSSO GLORIA RUSSO 407-352-1708 5720 PGA BLVD. APT. 537 ORLANDO, PC 32139	6125 ,94	411 63-27/101 444
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F. 305-8582863.	Gloupaus	<u>D.</u>

ATTACHMENT A DOCKET NO. 971489-TI GA RY NELSON ATTORNEY AT LAW **JANUARY 8, 1998** 

Licensed in U.S.A. (FL.) and Brazil

ATUM - Position 1100 FAXE JUN 0 3 1997 BY:

One Brickell Square 9th Floor **801 Brickell** Avenue Miami, Florida 33131

Lina

Phone (305) 374-2002 Fax (305) 285-1982

#### May 30, 1997

BellSouth P.O. Box 66002 New Orleans LA 70166-6002 BY FAX AND CERTIFIED MAIL

Hold Attn. Karla Customer Relations P.O. Box 691586 San Antonio TX 78269 BY FAX AND CERTIFIED MAIL

Re: (305) 858-1921, (305) 858-2863; charges resulting from "slam" by HOLD.

Dear Billing and Legal Departments:

This office represents Mr. and Mrs. Nicola Russo. My clients relocated to Miami in December, 1996, and continued with NationalTel as their long distance carrier, as they previously had in Orlando, Florida. In the beginning of April, 1997, they received their phone bill from BellSouth, showing HOLD as one of the long distance carriers. At first, they didn't understand, because they had not changed their service to HOLD, and they were also receiving their bills from NationalTel. After making some phone calls, they found that they had been switched to HOLD without their knowledge, at the beginning of February 1997.

They have spoken numerous times with HOLD, demanding that they discontinue the service, which was never requested by them in the first place. They even sent HOLD, by fax, copies of NationalTel's bills to prove that they had an agreement with NationalTel. They have called BellSouth to inform them of the problem and see if they could help with a solution. They have called NationalTel and BellSouth stating that they wanted to be switched back to NationalTel. They have also spoken to representatives of HOLD stating that they refuse to pay for services they provide without their authorization.

In the meantime, they have sent BellSouth payments for the charges that are not related to the amounts charged by HOLD, which they have been disputing since the receipt of the bill. On or about May 27, 1997, they had their phone blocked for long distance calls by BellSouth. My clients immediately objected to this on May 27 and May 28 to BellSouth and, BellSouth informed my clients that

### ATTACHMENT A DOCKET NO. 971489-71 30, 97 JANUARY 8, 1998

they would free their phone for long distance calls <u>only</u> upon HOLD's authorization(!!!).

On May 28, 1997, my assistant, Vicky, called HOLD trying to find out who authorized HOLD to switch my client's long distance service to them. She spoke to a lady named Karla and she said that somebody whose name was "R. Batista", signed the contract. My clients never heard of such person and my assistant requested a copy by fax of the authorization.

We have just received a copy of the contract executed by somebody whose name was Reynaldo Felipe Batista, living in a completely distinct address from my clients', whose mother is Victoria Diaz (see copy sent herewith for your reference). The phone number, hand written in the contract, looked like (305) 858-1931 instead of 858-1921 which used to be my client's phone number. I called (305) 858-1931 and the person who answered the phone said that she was the sister of Victoria Diaz!!! In other words, HOLD misread the handwriting of the person writing their own contract, "slammed" my clients' phone number, billed my clients through BellSouth, and never even bothered to double check the phone number, name and address of the person executing the contract. If HOLD and BellSouth had the policy of checking their records for accuracy of information, HOLD and BellSouth would have avoided this entire problem.

Since HOLD had no contract with Mr. and Mrs. Russo, they might assume they are owed for the calls under something like a theory of "quantum meruit". But HOLD is wrong on this. Mr. and Mrs. Russo did not know HOLD was providing the service and, at their first knowledge of it, they rejected it. As to any supposed "benefit" which would leave them unjustly enriched, there is no net benefit, since they have to pay my attorney's fees at a rate of \$155.00 per hour to resolve this matter, besides their own wasted time and aggravation.

It was completely negligent and unreasonable for both HOLD and BellSouth to process the switching order.

We demand that HOLD and BellSouth cancel all charges to my clients and that BellSouth re-connect my clients' phone number for long distance calls, to be serviced by NationalTel.

My clients are preparing a complaint to the Florida Public Service Commission and will also call Equal Access and ask for a "freeze code" or "pick block" so that any future change will require their written authorization.

Sincerely, Nelson

AXEL JUN 0 3 1937 -1-1 510-11 BY

GN/vn Encl.

CC: Mr. and Mrs. Nicola Russo CC: National Tel (9545491 - 9526

GARRY NELSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW, FLORIDA AND BRAZIL, 801 BRICKELL AVE, 9th FLOOR, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33131 TEL(305) 374-2002 + FAX (305) 285-1982

ATTACHMENTA	FROM HOME JUNERS LONG DISTANCE TO 13252951982 P. 22
DOCKET NO. 971489-TI	Official LOA Form
JANUARY 8, 1998	Long Distance Application
	Long Distance Application Mease Print - Hill out completely - Only one per household
	Home Phone: (305) 858 1931. Nome This Number I interfect to Ray (12) Obs. 1+26- 1977-
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	LIT's long distance rates are: 25 c per minute daytime (8 a.m 5 p.m., Monday through Friday), to where in the contiguous 48 states and 20 ¢ per minute all other times.
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olic	TE: Florida residents doily. A copy of the official registration and inancial information may be and from the division of consumer service by calling toll-tree 1.800 kits information may be
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	Herne Owners Lang Eleterica, Inc., P.O. Box 800570, Sas Angorio, Texas 78205; 1-800-878-4853.
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NAME JONES. VONNIE	Company HOME OWNERS LONG DISTANCE INCORPORA Attm. JOSEPH W. WEBB - 1660981 Companyer's Telephone - (407)-639-6048	Request No. <u>1660981</u> By <u>CRP</u> CO 54X 00 /05 /07
city/sip COCOA <u>32926</u> CHART	Cen Be Resched	To CO Time <u>FAX</u> Det 03/25/97
Account Musber	ijote	Catagory
Company Control	Limitad Response N	Infraction
Customer says the following:		Closed by Dats/ / N
Her long distance service was switched wi Customer's PIC is AT&T.		CONSUMER REQUEST
Please provide proof of authorization.		FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
M	AR 2 5 1997 MMN	2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD TALLAHASSEE, FL. 32399-0850 904-413-6100
		PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH REPORT OF ACTION TO:
		Carmen Pena
		DUE: _04/09/97

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ATTACHMENT B DOCKET NO. 971489-TI JANUARY 8, 1998

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1.

Official LOA Form Long Distance Application Please Print - Fill out completely - Only one per household
Home Phone: (407) 639-6048 Date: 122, 1997
Name This Number Is Listed Under:
Mother's Maiden Name (Used for verification purposes only):
City: COCCA Stole: FC Zip32926
Signature: (Must be signed and fully completed to qualify.)
MARITAL STATUS I single Imarried AGE I under 21 I 21 & over
By signing the above Letter of Agency (LOA) form, I am agreeing to change my current long distance carrier to Home Owners Long Distance, Inc., ("HOLD"), and I designate HOLD as my agent to cancel my agreement with my existing carrier in favor of new service with HOLD, for my 1+ long distance service only. I understand that I can have only one 7+ long distance service and that construction with my carrier that the distance service only.

new service with HOLD, for my 1+ long distance service only. I understand that I can have only one 1+ long distance service and that service with my previous 1+ long distance company will be cancelled when my 1+ service is switched to HOLD. I understand that only the person legally responsible for payment of the charges incurred on the telephone number written above may authorize this switch in 1+ service, and by signing above I acknowledge that I am that person. Charges for my 1+ long distance will be billed by my local telephone company as charges from HOLD. I understand that my local telephone company will charge me a one-time charge of up to S5, plus tax, for this selection.

# LONG DISTANCE OFFER

By signing the letter of agency on the reverse side you are selecting Home Owners Long Distance, Inc., ("HOLD") as your 1 + long distance service company. You will be mailed a welcome letter from HOLD before your long distance service is changed to HOLD.

HOLD's long distance rates are: 25 c per minute daytime (8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday), to anywhere in the contiguous 48 states and 20 c per minute all other times.

NOTE: Florida residents only. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer service by calling toll-free 1-800-HELP-FLA, within the State of Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

NOTE: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania residents only. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Consumer Protection Bureau by calling toll-free 1-800-441-2555, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

© 1996 Home Owners Long Distance, Inc., P.O. Box 690670, San Antonio, Texas 78269, 1-800-879-4653.

IOLD

Home Owners Long Distance, Inc. P.O. Box 690670 San Antonio, Texas 78269 (210) 525-8152 Fax (210) 525-0637

March 26, 1997

Vonnie Jones 3825 S. Denton Circle Cocoa, FL 32926

Re: 407-639-6048 Req. No. 166098I

Dear Ms. Jones:

Please accept our sincere apologies regarding the change in your long distance service.

Home Owners Long Distance, a long distance reseller utilizing the MCI network, received an application requesting our service in the name of Jesse Miller III for the above referenced telephone number. Shortly after the application was received, a confirmation letter was sent to the address indicated on the application to confirm all applicant information and to ensure that a change in long distance service was desired. There was no adverse response to the confirmation letter. Therefore, the application was considered valid and forwarded to Bell South for processing. It was not apparent by the application that Jesse Miller III was not authorized to change long distance companies.

As requested, your account with Home Owners Long Distance has been canceled. Please be advised that a credit of \$2.98 for switch over fees has been issued to Bell South and will appear on your bill within one to two billing cycles. If you receive a bill from HOLD, please contact me and an adjustment will be issued.

Once again, we apologize for this error and any inconvenience it may have caused. It is not our intent or desire to obtain customers who do not wish to utilize our service.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact me at 1-800-818-6806.

Sincerely,

Liesl Mitchell Administrative Assistant

cc: Florida Public Service Commission

		JANUARY 8, 19
Name JONES, VONNIE	company <u>HOME_OWNERS_LONG_DISTANCE_INCORPORA</u>	199714 Request No. <u>1660981</u>
Address <u>3825 S. DENTON CIRCLE</u>	Attn. JOSEPH W, WEBB - 1660981	Request No. 1000901
	Consumer's Telephone # (407)-639-6048	To <u>CO</u> Time_ <u>FAX</u>
city/Zip COCOA 32926 County BRE	Can Be Reached	Type_S_Form_Phone
Account Number	Note	Category
Company Contact		Infraction LS-13C
Customen saus the fallouing		Closed by <u>CRP</u> Date 05/19/97
Customer says the following: Her long distance service was switched wit	thout her knowledge.	Reply Received
Customer's PIC is AT&T.		
Please provide proof of authorization.		CONSUMER REQUEST
April 1, 1997: The report received is a c customer. A credit was awarded for the swi *This inquiry is closed.		
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ATTACHMENT C DOCKET NO. 971-JANUARY 8, 1998 ACHMEN ۹<sup>۲</sup> Ľ. 1489 COMPANY HOME OWNERS LONG DISTANCE INCORPORA Request No. 1648941 Attn. JOSEPH W. WEBB 1648941 By MEP\_TIME 1:24. PM\_ Date03/14/97 Consumer 1 a Telephone # (954)-475-4239 To CO Time FAX Date03/17/97 Can Be county BRO Reached (954)-475-4239 Type S Form MAIL Note SweeDstakes Category Limited Response N Infraction LS-13A Closed by MEP Date \_04/02/97 Reply Received T CONSUMER REQUEST FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD TALLAHASSEE, FL. 32393-0656 964-413-6100 PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH REPORT OF ACTION TO: Ellen Plend) DUE: 04/01/97

See attached correspondence regarding customer's concerns with a switch in his long distance service from MCI to Home Owner's Long Distance without authorization or request. Customer has returned to carrier of choice. Please investigate this matter, contact the customer, and provide me with a detailed written report including LOA/Tape and applicable credits for switching fees as well as an adjustment of rates to that of the customer's preferred carrier by the date below.

Nume WADHWA, ASHMANI

CITY/ZID PLANTATION

Account Number

Company Contact

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Address 264 NM 102ND TERRACE

 $\mathbf{X}$ 

33324

04/01/97 Received report as letter to customer with explanation. \$265.03 credit and sweepstakes LOA.

04/02/97 Closed by telephone conversation with Mr. Wadhwa, who states that his child filled out what he thought was a sweepstakes entry.

March 26, 1997

Ashwani Wadhwa 264 NW 102<sup>nd</sup> Terrace Plantation, FL 33324

Re: 954-475-4239 Req. No. 1648941

Dear Mr. Wadhwa:

Please accept our sincere apologies regarding the change in your long distance service.

Home Owners Long Distance, a long distance reseller utilizing the MCI network, received an application requesting our service in the name of Witin Wadhwa for the above referenced telephone number. Shortly after the application was received, a confirmation letter was sent to the address indicated on the application to confirm all applicant information and to ensure that a change in long distance service was desired. There was no adverse response to the confirmation letter. Therefore, the application was considered valid and forwarded to Bell South for processing. It was not apparent by the application that Witin was not authorized to change long distance companies, nor was there any reason to believe that the application was altered.

As requested, your account with Home Owners Long Distance has been canceled. Please be advised that a credit of \$265.03 for difference in rates and switch over fees has been issued to Bell South and will appear on your bill within one to two billing cycles.

Once again, we apologize for this error and any inconvenience it may have caused. It is not our intent or desire to obtain customers who do not wish to utilize our service.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact me at 1-800-818-6806.

Sincerely.

Mitchell

Liesl Mitchell Administrative Assistant

cc: Florida Public Service Commission

#### Long Distance Service Application (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

HOME PHONE# (305) 475-4239 DATE 3-12/96 1996
- NAME THIS NUMBER IS LISTED UNDER WITIN Wadhwa
ADDRESS 264 NW 102 TEMPACE APTA
CITY <u>Plantation</u> STATE <u>EL</u> 21 33324 MARITAL STATUS D'SINGLE D'MARRIED AGE D'UNDER 21 D'21 & OVER
-signature Nuting Wadhurg
(MUST BE SIGNED AND FULLY COMPLETED )
TYES, I WOULD LIKE A VOX GOLD LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL CARD (SUPER RATES).

By signing above 1 designate Home Owners Long Distance, (nc., (HOLD) as my agent to cancel my agreement with my sxisting carrier in favor of new service with HOLD, for my 1+ long distance service only, and understand that: I can have only one 1+ long distance service and any previous selection of a 1+ long distance company made by me will be cancelled. I am the person legally responsible for charges on the telephone number written above. Charges for my 1+ long distance from HOLD will be billed by my local telephone company and 1 understand that my local telephone company and 1 understand that my local telephone company may charge me a one time charge of up to \$5.00 plus tax for the selection.

#### LONG DISTANCE OFFER

By signing the letter of agency on the reverse side you are selecting Home Owners Long Distance, Inc., (HOLD) as your 1+ long distance company. You will be mailed a welcome letter before your service is changed to HOLD. HOLD's long distance rates are: 25¢ per minute daytime (8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, to anywhere in the contiguous 48 states and 20¢ per minute for all other times.)

This offer is void in any state where prohibited by law. You must be 18 years old or older to apply. One application per tamily. This material is being used for the purpose of obtaining letters of agency for telephone customers to change their long distance service.

NOTE: FLORIDA RESIDENTS ONLY: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICE BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA, WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

NOTE: COMMONWEALTH OF PA RESIDENTS ONLY: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONSUMER PROTECTION BUREAU BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-441-2555, WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Copyright 1996 Home Owners Long Distance. Inc. P.O. Box 690670 Sen Antonio, Texas, 78289 1-800-879-4653

State of Fiorida

ATTACHMENT C Commissioners DOCKET NO, 9714895 AV F CLARK JANUARY 8, 1998 J TERRY DEASON JOE GARCIA DIANE K. KIESLING



DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS BEVERLEE DEMELLO DIRECTOR (904) 413-6100 TOLL FREE 1-800-342-3552

# Public Service Commission

March 18, 1997

Mr. Ashwani Wadhwa 264 Northwest 102nd Terrace Plantation, FL 33324

Dear Mr. Wadhwa:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning Home Owners Long Distance Incorporated.

We will look into the matter you outlined, advise the company to contact you to resolve the problem, and require the company to provide the Florida Public Service Commission with a letter outlining its resolution of the matter.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 1-800-342-3552.

Sincerely,

Ellen Plendi Regulatory Specialist I Division of Consumer Affairs

MEP:ewe

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BLVD • TALLAHASSEE. FL 32399-0850 An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer Internet E-mail: CONTACT@PSC.STATE.FL.US

## ATTACHMENT C DOCKET NO. 97148911 8941 JANUARY 8, 1998

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Consument Comp. n. S Den

264 NW 102nd Terr. Plantation, Fl. 33324 Tel. 954-475-4239 Feb. 19, 1997

Lawton Chiles Governor State Capitol Federal Building Tallahassee, Florida

#532736 Wadhwa, Ashwani Recd. 02.2711997 DEO: DFM To: CAS+N.A-DAW Due: 03-13-1997

REF: REPORTING SUSPICIOUS AND FRAUDULENT PRACTICE BY LONG DISTANCE CARRIER - Home Owners Long Distance Inc., (HOLD) P.O. Box. 690670 San Antonio, Tx. 78269

#### Sir,

I received my telephone bill from Bell South yesterday and upon reviewing I noticed HOLD was my long distance carrier and had some charges due me. I had my long distance carrier as AT and T for my years but I switched to MCI about three months ago and I did not remember assigning any other company as my long distance carrier.

I requested my wife to call their office to find out. She talked to Anita at their 1 800 879 4653 telephone number and requested her to fax the authorization which she did. It was very interesting to note that

a. The application was filled out by my son who is a minor (10 years old).

b. The application was dated 3/12/96 and the switching of the long distance was done in Jan./Feb, 1997. Our area code has changed from 305 to 954 and no consideration was made to that.

c. The telephone is listed under my name and he had put his name and it was not verified by their office staff.

d. The marital status is checked off as MARRIED AND is checked off as if he is 21 years old and OVER. There is a check off mark on YES also. The handwriting on the check off marks very clearly DOES NOT MATCH HIS HANDWRITING.

e. There is an obvious discrepancy with the statement on the application where it states that he designates HOLD company as the long distance carrier. Copies of my telephone bill and the application showing my son's signature are enclosed for your ready reference.

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My wife tried to call back and started questioning their agent Anita. When she could not answer, SHE HUNG UP THE PHONE. My wife called again and requested to talk to the supervisor. Pat came on the line and SHE TOO HUNG UP THE PHONE.

I called Bell South to report and I was notified that my long distance company was changed again about four days ago to US LONG DISTANCE. I called them at their 1-800-460-1111 and talked to Anna. She informed me that my long distance company was changeed again this morning to Multi Media All American. I called them at their 1-888-558-4726 telephone number and an answering machine came on.

There appears to be some fradulent practice going on and I would sincerely appreciate your investigating into the matter.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

Sincerely

Ashwani K. Wadhwa

.

#### Long Distance Service Application (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

	HOME PHONES (305) 475-4239 DATE 3-12/01 19 46
	NAME THIS NUMBER IS LISTED INDER WITH NO-Ihwa
	ADDRESS 264 NW 102 Terrace NOTA
1	city plantation state E/ 20 33324
	MARITAL STATUS I SINGLE D'MARRIED AGE JUNDER 21 72 & OVER
	-signature Mitin Wadhurg
	(MUST BE SIGNED AND FULLY COMPLETED )

TYES, I WOULD LIKE & VOX OCLD LONG DISTANCE FRAVEL CARD (SUPER RATES).

By signing above I designate Home Owners Long Distance, Inc., (HOLD) as my agent to cancel my agreement with my existing carrier in favor of new service with HOLD, for my 1+ long distance tervice only, and understand thet: I can have only one 1+ long distance service and any previous selection of a 1+ long distance company made by me will be cancelled. I am the person legally responsible for charges on the telephone number writen above. Charges for my 1+ long distance from HOLD will be billed by my local telephone company and I understand that my local telephone company may charge me a one-time charge of up to \$5.00 plus tax for this selection.

#### LONG DISTANCE OFFER

Sy signing the letter of agency on the reverse side you are selecting Home Owners Long Distance, Inc., (HOLD) as your 1+ long distance company. You will be mailed a welcome letter before your service is changed to HOLD. HOLD's long distance rates are: 25c per minute daytime (8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, to anywhere in the contiguous 48 states and 20e per minute for all other times.)

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Copyright 1996 Home Owners Long Distance. Inc. P.O. Box 690670 San Aragnio, Texas. 28298 1-800-879-4253

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2.423

HOLD

ASHWANI K WADHWA Account Number:

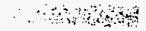
954 475-4239 620 1 Bill Period Date: Feb 8, 1997

Pag

For HOLD Billing Services Billing Questions, Call 1 800 879-4653

# **Detailed Statement of Charges**

Itemized Call						Атош
954 475-4239	ier - HOME OWN	FRE LONG DE				
Service Front		ERS LUNG DS	4			
	Aus Place Called	N-1-0-0-0	• •		• •	
Dete	VLY STREAM NY	Number Called	Rate*	Time	Min	
1. 01/07	VLY STREAM NY	516 561-6497	AD AD	10:53AM	3	.75
2. 01/07	INDIA	516 561-6497	AD	10:55AM	2	. 50
3. 01/09		91184252914	AD .	09:01AM	4	13.57
4. 01/09	INDIA	91161672635	AD	09:05AM	17	48.19
5. 01/11	ORLANDO FL	407 351-9993	KN	03:03PM	3	. 60
6. 01/11	ORLANDO FL	407 351-9993	KN	04:03PM	8	1.60
7. 01/13	ORLANDO FL	407 843-4600	KD	03:36PM	1	. 25
8. 01/13	INDIA	9111524861	AN	11:25PM	10	26.21
9. 01/15	ORLANDO FL	407 351-9993	KD	09:03AN	1	. 25
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Taxes and Rates Applied - See Back of First Page

a of your bill is provided as a server to HOLD Silling Services.

on BellSouth and HOLD Billing Services. na hatta

> AC E041871

ATTACHMENT C DOCKET NO. 971489-TI JANUARY 8, 1998

> Long Distance Service Application (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

HOME PHONES 305 4 DATE 3-12/01/ 13 0/6 C Witin Wallhwa 102 Te: 100868

ZP 33320 CITY STATE us 🗇 Single 🎾 MARRIED AGE J UNDER 21 2 & OVER

(MUST BE SIGNED AND FULLY COMPLETED )

1.1.

THE I WOULD LIKE A VOX GOLD LONG DISTANCE FRAVEL CARD (SUPER RATES).

By signing above I designate Home Owners Long Distance, Inc., (HOLD) as my agent to cancel my agreement with my skilling carrier in favor of new service with HOLD, for my 1+ long distance tervice only, and understand thet: I can have only one 1+ long distance service and any provious selection of ± 1+ long distance company made by me will be cancelled. I am the person legally responsible for charges on the jelephone number written above. Charges for my 1+ long-distance from HOLD will be billed by my local telephone company and 1 understand that my local telephone company may charge me 3 ons time charge of up to \$5.00 plus tax for this selection.

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ATTACHMENT C DOCKET NO 974 89 THE STATE OF STATE

HOLD

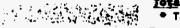
ASHWANI K WADHWA Account Number: 954 475-4239 620 Bill Period Date: Feb 8, 1997

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For HOLD Billing Services Billing Questions, Call 1 800 879-4653

# **Detailed Statement of Charges**

	75-4239							
Servic	e Providi	r - HOME OWI	VERS .	LONG DS	T			
Direct	Dialed Co	elis						
	Dete	<b>Fiece</b> Called	Na	mber Called	Reset	Time	Min	
1.	01/07	VLY STREAM NY	516	561-6497	AD	10:53AM	3	
2.	01/07	VLY STREAM NY	516	561-6497	AD	10:55AM	2	
3.	01/09	A DN I	91	184252914	AØ	09:01AM	4	13.
4.	01/09	INDIA	91	161672635	AD	Q9:05AN	17 .	48.
5.	01/11	ORLANDO FL	407	351-9993	KN	03:03PM	3	
6.	01/11	ORLANDO FL	407	351-9993	KN	04:03PM	8 ·	1.
7.	01/13	ORLANDO FL	407	843-4600	KD	03:36PM	1	•
8.	01/13	INDIA	9	111524861	AN	11:25PH	10	26.
9.	01/15	ORLANDO FL	407	351-9993	KÐ	09:03AM	1	•
Total	Direct	Dialed Calls				• • • • • • • • • •		91.
Total	Charges	for 954 475-423						91.
The al	pave tot	al does not incl	ude ti	ne follovi	ng tax			
	Federal	Tex			••	\$2.	.83	
	Local T	ex			••	\$0.	. 19	
	Florida	Gross Receipts	Surcha	inge	••	\$2.	29	
Total	itesize	d Calls	•••••		• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • •		<del>9</del> 1.
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	-	ted Services						
		Таж						2.
11		Gross Receipts						2.3
	CITY IN	<b>K</b>						5.
12.	-							5.
12. Total	Taxes of	n Regulated Serv						5.



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Taxes and Kates Applied - See Back of Fir

This parties of your till is provided as a service to HOLD Billing Servic There is an expansion between BellSouth and HOLD Billing Service.

AG E041871

ATTACHMENT C DOCKET NO. 971 JANUARY 8, 199	STATE OF FLORIDA	- rnor
LAWTON CHILES GOVERNOR	THE CAPITOL TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-001 March 3, 1997	
Ashwani K. Wadhwa 264 Northwest 102 Terrace Plantation, Florida 33324	(B)	CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Ashwani:

Although I am glad to have the opportunity to review your recent letter, the agency you should contact to address your concerns is the Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC was created by the legislature and is by Florida Statute an arm of the legislative branch of government. The PSC contains a division of consumer affairs which I believe can help or direct you.

I have forwarded your letter to the PSC. I feel sure you will hear from them when they have had a chance to evaluate your complaint, but if you have interim questions, call toll-free the PSC's Division of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-342-3552 or write to them at the address indicated below. If you would like to bring this issue to the attention of someone other than the PSC, you should contact either your state senator or representative.

If I can be of assistance on any issue or concern that comes under my jurisdiction, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am

C/hml/pk

Public Service Commission Division of Consumer Affairs 2540 Schumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 904/413-6100

Since

Name <u>CLARK, THOMAS E.</u> Address <u>2402 SOUTH CLARK AVENUE</u>	Company HOME OWNERS LONG DISTANCE INCORPORA Attn. Joseph W. Webb Consumer's Telephone # (813)-251-8184	JANUARY JANUARY   AREQUEST NO. 100   100 100   100 100   100 100   100 1169891   100 </th
city/zip TAMPA 33629 county HILL	Can Be Reached	Type S Form MAIL
Account Number	Note <u>Sweep (forgery)</u>	Category
Company Contact	Límited Reponse N	Infraction <u>LS-13A</u>
See attached correspondence concerning unau	uthorized Pit change.	Closed by <u>NEP</u> Date <u>04/18/96</u>
3/22 Report as letter to customer with LOA. File closed.		Reply Received _T
		CONSUMER REQUEST
File closed.		CONSUMER REQUEST FLORIDA PUBLIC ( SERVICE COMMISSION
File closed.		CONSUMER REQUEST FLORIDA PUBLIC ( SERVICE COMMISSION ( 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVAR TALLAHASSEE, FL. 32399-0850 904-413-6100

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1169391

2-16-96

Dear Mulane, Requising my complaint of "flow ming" by three comes hay distance, please review this contract offered by of in a my application of their service. Jon will quickly water that this is not my signature.

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e est

There fil. Thefine E. Auch THUMAS E. CARK 2402 D. CLARK AVE. MMPA, IT 33627

OFFICIAL RULES ON BACK LONG DISTANCE APPI NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO WIN HIS AND HERE ATTACHMENT D & ENTRY BLANK WIN DOCKET NO. 971489-THV \$35.000 PLEASE PRINT) JANUARY 8, 1998 HOME PHONE # (313) DATE Sep 23 1995 Marital Status NAME THIS NUMBER IS LISTED UNDER SPERIOS C - MARRIED nonci SM (4N7 SINGLE ADDRESS APT. Age Lampo CITY  $\mathcal{O}$ 3 STATE Under 21 ->SIGNATURE non 0 21 or over MUST BE SIGNED AND FULLY COMPLETED TO QUALIFY (Appropriate age box be checked)

Vesi I would like \$60 CASH. Enter my mame in the \$35,000 CASH or HIS AND FULLY COMPLETED TO QUALIFY be cher the monthly drawing for the 25 remote color TV. By signing above, I designate Home Owners Long Distance, Inc. (HOLD) as my agent to cancel my agree existing earlier in favor of new service with HOLD, for my 1+ long distance service only and understand that I can have only one 1+ long distance service and selection of a 1+ long distance company made by me will be cancelled. I am the person legally mesponsible for charges on the telephone and the to this selection. HOLD's network transmission services are provided by MCI, LDDS / Metuomedia or Allinet. I hereby disallow any further charges to my service unless authorized by me in writing. wing, cater my na ne im with my ing distance service and any pro-mber written above. Charges for me a one time charge of up to \$5.00 By checking this boz, I am deciding that I do not wish to change my long distance Copyright 1994 Home Owners Long Distance, Inc. 1-800-879-4653

rvice. Please enter my name in the drawing only.

Form DP 1/95

# LONG DISTANCE OFFER

When you select Home Owners Long Distance, Inc. (HOLD) as your 1+ long distance company by completing the Latter of Agency on reverse side, HOLD will provide \$60.00 CASH in the form of 4 coupons mailed to you with a welcome letter before your service is changed to HOLD. Once every three months one of the coupons must be sent to HOLD to receive a check for \$15.00 by return mail for a total of \$60.00. 20¢ per minute for all other times.

# OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

This offer is void in any state where prohibited by law. You must be 18 years old or older to enter. No purchase necessary to win. One entry per family. Do not need to be present to win. Prize drawing is for \$35,000 CASH or HIS AND HERS GRAND PRIZE (MSRP \$38,600 CASH). All federal, state and local taxes are the sole responsibility of the winner. Winner will be notified by mail. The Grand Prize will be awarded November 30, 1995. For the name of the Grand Prize winner send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to Home Owners Long Agency for telephone customers to change their long distance service.

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Copyright 1994 Home Owners Long Distance, Inc. P.O. BOX 690670 + San Antonio, Texas 78269 + 1-800-879-4653

Form DP 1/95

| CLARK. THOMAS E.                                       | THE PARTY DATE PARTY INCOME OF | Request No. <u>1169891</u><br>By <u>JRD_16ee_3:53_PM_</u> Bate <u>03/13/96</u><br>To <u>CO</u> pate <u>03/14/96</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ity/Zip IAMPA 33629 County HILL                        | Cen Se Resched                 | Type S Form MALL                                                                                                    |
| ccount Number                                          | Note                           | Category                                                                                                            |
| Company Contact                                        | Limited Reponse N              | Infraction                                                                                                          |
| See attached correspondence concerning un              | uthorized PIC change.          | Closed by Date/ /                                                                                                   |
| )                                                      |                                | Reply Received                                                                                                      |
|                                                        |                                | CONSUMER REQUEST                                                                                                    |
|                                                        |                                |                                                                                                                     |
| ······································                 | · · · ·                        | FLORIDA PUBLIC                                                                                                      |
|                                                        |                                | SERVIĈE                                                                                                             |
|                                                        |                                | COMMISSION                                                                                                          |
|                                                        |                                | 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD<br>TALLAHASSER, FL. 32399-4850<br>904-413-6100                                           |
| · · · ·                                                |                                | 904-413-6100                                                                                                        |
| <i>3</i> )                                             |                                | PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM<br>WITH REPORT OF ACTION TO:                                                                |
|                                                        | RECEIVED                       | Richard Durbin                                                                                                      |
| F                                                      | MAR 1 4 1996                   | DUE: 03/29/96                                                                                                       |
| 48<br>9                                                | BY: Yu                         |                                                                                                                     |
| ATTACHMENT D<br>DOCKET NO. 971489-1<br>JANUARY 8, 1998 |                                |                                                                                                                     |
| ATTACHMENT D<br>DOCKET NO. 971<br>JANUARY 8, 1998      |                                |                                                                                                                     |
| ARY                                                    |                                |                                                                                                                     |
|                                                        |                                |                                                                                                                     |

- 1-1-

> SUSAN F. CLARK, CHAIRMAN J. TERRY DEASON

Commissioners:

JOE GARCIA

JULIA L. JOHNSON

DIANE K. KIESLING

State of Florida



DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS BEVERLEE DeMELLO DIRECTOR (904) 413-6100 TOLL FREE 1-800-342-3552

# Public Service Commission

March 15, 1996

Mr. Thomas E. Clark 2402 South Clark Avenue Tampa, Florida 33629

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning Home Owners Long Distance Incorporated.

We will look into the matter you outlined and get back in touch with you at the conclusion of our investigation.

Sincerely,

Dick Durbin Consumer Services Consultant Division of Consumer Affairs

DD/pr

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## ATTACHMENT D DOCKET NO. 9714991D JANUARY 8, 1998

H.\_\_\_\_\_iers Long Distance, inc. P.O. Box 690670 San Antonio, Texas 78269 (210) 525-8152 Fax (210) 525-0637



March 18, 1996

Mr. Thomas Clark 2402 South Clark Avenue Tampa, FL 33629 813-251-8184 Req. No. 116989I and 111432I

Dear Mr. Clark:

Please accept our sincere apologies regarding the change in your long distance service.

Home Owners Long Distance, a long distance reseller utilizing the LDDS network, received an application requesting our service in the name of Thomas Clark for the above referenced telephone number. It was not apparent by the application that you did not wish to convert to Home Owners Long Distance, nor was there any reason to believe that the signature was not valid.

Our records indicate that on February 16, 1996, a refund check was mailed to you for your switch over fees. Enclosed is a second refund totaling \$17.96 for all billing.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact me at 1-800-879-4653.

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Sincerely,

A. Weaver

Deborah Weaver Customer Service Manager

cc: Florida Public Service Commission JRD