FC REASSIGNED NUMBERS DATABASE WEBINAR SUMMARY

Diana Coho Consumer Affairs and Outreach Specialist Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau November 9, 2021



On December 13, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Second Report and Order on Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls.

- In the Reassigned Numbers Database Order, the Commission addressed the problem of unwanted calls to consumers with numbers reassigned from a previous consumer by establishing a single, comprehensive Reassigned Numbers Database (RND).
- The RND system securely houses US geographic and toll-free numbers that have been permanently disconnected (and thus possibly reassigned) and the date of the most recent permanent disconnection of each of those numbers.

The FCC awarded the contract to develop and administer the RND to SomosGov. Work began in December 2020.



As of April 15, 2021, service providers **must** report permanent disconnections to the RND on the 15th of each month (47 CFR §64.1200(l)(2)-(4)).

- Small business service providers (those providers with 100,000 or fewer domestic retail subscribers) were given an additional 6 months, until October 15, 2021, to comply.
- Service providers have been required to maintain records of the most recent date that each phone number allocated or ported to the provider was permanently disconnected (47 CFR §64.1200(l)(1)) since July 27, 2020 (January 27, 2021, for small business service providers). As of October 15, 2021, there are 152,738,232 telephone numbers in the RND. This number will continue to grow over time.

As of July 27, 2020, all service providers are required to age telephone numbers for at least 45 days after permanent disconnection prior to reassignment. 47 CFR §§52.15(f)(1)(ii) and (f)(8), 52.103(d).



Is the RND mandatory?

- Voice Service Providers must report permanently disconnected telephone numbers to the RND—it is mandatory for them.
- Callers are not required to use the RND—it is not mandatory for callers.

Who might use the RND?

All entities making outgoing calls/texts such as:

- Pharmacies (e.g., large chains and local stores)
- Retail (e.g., large chains and local stores)
- Financial (e.g., banks, debt collection)
- Healthcare (e.g., doctors, dentists)

Others

- Religious organizations
- Hair/Nail Salons, etc.



- Callers and/or their Agents will check the RND to determine whether a telephone number has been permanently disconnected from the consumer they intend to reach, thus allowing them to avoid calling consumers with potentially reassigned numbers who may not wish to receive the call and comply with regulatory requirements.
- An advantage to using the RND is a safe harbor.
- Unlike the FTC's Do Not Call Registry, the RND is not a download.
- The RND uses a query-based system.



- For more information about the RND, go to <u>https://www.fcc.gov/reassigned-numbers-database</u>
- To view a video of the RND webinar, or to download a copy of the presentation, go to <u>https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/11/reassigned-numbers-</u> <u>database-webinar-o</u>