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CAS and TDD Surcharge

Aging and Disability Services Division

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Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Agenda

1. Background information on TDD & NRS 427A
2. FCC Relay Services Regulations
3. FCC changes to relay services
4. Relay services and funding
5. Impact on FCC changes to the state

NRS 427A.797 – TDD Surcharge Timeline

1995 – SB 54

- Establishes the Relay Nevada service under the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)
- TDD surcharge followed federal law and paid for mandated requirements:
 - Relay services
 - Equipment

2003 – SB 164

- Services transferred to Office of Disability Services (ODS)
- Additional services funded by TDD Surcharge:
 - Deaf centers

2009 – SB 434

- NRS 427A established, services transferred to ADSD
- Additional services funded by TDD Surcharge:
 - Interpreter/CART registry

2015- AB 200

- NRS 427A amended
- Additional services funded by TDD Surcharge:
 - State interpreter mentors

2019 – SB 93 and SB 203

- NRS 427A amended
- Additional services funded by TDD Surcharge:
 - Executive Director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission
 - Program to provide hearing aids for children





FCC Regulations

FCC Relay* Regulations

Allows for states to **recover costs incurred** for providing state relay services to include:

- Relay provider
- Equipment to access relay services

NRS 427A** – NV TDD pays for the following:

- Administration of the CAS program
- Relay Nevada
- Telecommunications Equipment Distribution program
- Interpreter/CART Registry (NRS 656A)
- Instruction in Language Acquisition – CSD ASL Classes
- Assistance with Access to Services - NVCC & NVHV
- Sign Language Interpreter Mentors
- Executive Director of the Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Hearing Aid program for children

[**FCC: 47 CFR §64.604\(c\)\(5\)](#)

[**NRS: CHAPTER 427A - SERVICES TO AGING PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES \(state.nv.us\)](#)





FCC Changes to Relay Services

Landline relay use declining



FCC will stop requiring states to provide landline relay in the next **3-5 years**



All relay users will be transitioned to internet relay services



TDD Surcharge?



Relay Services and Funding

- Landline relay services
 - Intrastate calls - funded by the NV TDD Surcharge Fund
 - Interstate calls – funded by the federal Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Fund
- Internet-based relay services
 - Intrastate & interstate calls – currently funded by the federal TRS Fund
 - Expected that FCC will be transferring responsibility of intrastate calls to the states, along with some funding
 - Includes:
 - Video relay service (VRS)
 - Internet Protocol Relay Service (IP Relay)





Impacts of FCC changes to NV

- Fiscal

- TDD Surcharge discontinued
- New funding source would need to be found for the CAS program and services for deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired Nevadans

- Programmatic

- Create a migration plan to move landline Relay Nevada users to internet relay services
- Communicate relay closure information to all stakeholders
- Coordinate with our relay vendor and PUC to close down Relay Nevada



What's Next?

- CAS will be hiring a temporary contract position to serve as the State Relay Administrator for Nevada
 - Coordinate and oversee the transition of land line to internet-based relay in Nevada
- Commission
 - Evaluate service needs for deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired Nevadans
 - Evaluate funding needs for those services
 - Identify funding sources for services, other than the TDD surcharge



References

FCC Relay Regulations 47 CFR §64.604(c)(5)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-64/subpart-F>

SB 54 - Established Relay Nevada under DETR

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/68th1995/95bills/SB054.TXT>

SB 164 – Moved Relay from DETR to ADSD

https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/72nd2003/bills/SB/SB164_EN.pdf

NRS 427A.797

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-427a.html#NRS427ASec797>

AB 200 – Added interpreters to NRS 427A

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/78th2015/Stats201509.html#Stats201509page888>

SB 93 – Added Deaf Commission Exec Dir to NRS 427A

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/80th2019/Stats201918.html#Stats201918page3046>

SB 203 – Added Hearing Aid Program to NRS 427A

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/80th2019/Stats201922.html#Stats201922page3934>





Questions?





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Acronyms

- AB – Assembly Bill
- ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act
- ASL – American Sign Language
- CART – Communication Access Real-time Translation
- CAS – Communication Access Services
- CSD – Communication Services for the Deaf
- DETR – Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation
- FCC – Federal Communications Commission
- IP Relay - Internet Protocol Relay Service
- NASRA – National Association for State Relay Administration
- NVCC – Nevada Care Connection
- NVHV – Nevada Hands and Voices
- PUC – Public Utilities Commission
- SB – Senate Bill
- TDD – Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf
- TRS – Telecommunication Relay Services
- VRS – Video Relay Service