

Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing in Alabama Begins October 12, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, AL (October 5, 2019) – Beginning October 12, callers in Alabama will have to dial the area code along with the seven-digit phone number to make a local call.

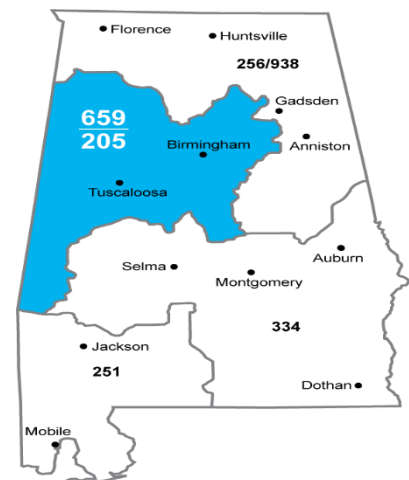
The Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a new area code to overlay 205 in Alabama in August of 2018. To implement the new area code, the commission also approved mandatory 10-digit dialing for the effected area.

The new area code, 659, will overlay the current 205 area code. As numbers are needed, assignments may be made from the new 659 area code.

On October 12, all calls made within the Alabama 205 area code must be placed using the 10 digit telephone number. If consumers dial only seven digits, the call will not complete and the caller will hear an announcement instructing them to redial including the area code.

The most important facts for consumers:

- Current telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- Consumers will continue to dial 1 + area code + telephone number to complete long distance calls.
- A local call now will remain a local call.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- Calling 911 will not change.
- Consumers will continue to dial three digits to reach 211 and 811, as well as 311 and 511, where available.



It is important that consumers confirm that all services, automatic dialing equipment, applications, software, or other types of equipment recognize the new 659 area code. This may include life-safety systems, fax machines, internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, gates, ankle monitors, speed dialers, mobile phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, and similar functions. Consumers should check business stationery, advertising materials, personal checks, and personal or pet ID tags to ensure the area code is included in the telephone number.

For additional information, please visit the PSC website at:

<http://www.psc.state.al.us/Telecom/Areacode205overlay.pdf>

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