

All Customers with a DC 202 Area Code Must Dial Area Code + Telephone Number for All Local Calls Beginning October 9, 2021

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia approved the addition of the new 771 area code to the geographic region served by the 202 area code. This process is known as an area code overlay.

What is an area code overlay?

An overlay is the addition of another area code (771) to the same geographic region as an existing area code (202). An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code or telephone number.

Who will be affected?

The 202 area code serves the District of Columbia. The new 771 area code will be superimposed over the entire geographic area currently served by the existing 202 area code.

When will the change begin?

Beginning **November 9, 2021**, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers with the new 771 area code. If you have a 771 area code, you must dial the area code + telephone number or the call will not complete.

What will you need to do?

All services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed to dial a 7-digit number will need to be reprogrammed to include the area code. Some examples are life safety systems and medical monitoring devices, fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services and similar functions, etc. You may also want to check your websites, personal and business stationery and checks, advertising materials, personal and pet ID tags and other such items to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 911, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 if those are currently available in your community.

Who may you contact with questions?

If you have any questions regarding information provided in this notice, please access the following websites for more information: Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia at <https://dcpsc.org>.