



The FCC & the Captioned Telephone Industry

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Agenda



- Current FCC Regulations
- FCC Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) regarding Audiologists
- Summary of Filings
- Next Steps Anticipated by FCC
- Q&A



Current FCC Regulations



- Captioned Phone minimum cost \$75 with exceptions
 - State based Equipment Programs
 - Approved Certifying Entities
- Marketing/Distribution
 - No Joint Marketing agreements
 - No Exclusivity (Contracts)
 - No Incentives



FCC FNPRM Timeline



- June 8th – Commission votes in favor of FNPRM
- September 17th – Comments due
- October 16th – Reply Comments due
- FCC Considers all comments – Anticipated decisions by early 2019.



FNPRM – Audiologist Impact



- Ensuring Independent Assessments
 - 2 Options Provided
 - State Equipment Programs
 - Otolaryngologists, Audiologists, other Hearing Health Professionals as certified by states.



State Equipment Programs



- Government or Non-profit entities
 - Unlikely swayed by incentives to one technology or another
- Ability of programs to take on task
- Anticipation of \$9 million cost
- Considerations of States without EDPs



Third Party Professionals



- Enticements of free phones
 - Strict Safeguards
- Prohibit business, family or social relationship with providers
- Prohibit any sponsorships and/or joint arrangements providing free hearing tests
- Assessments
 - Functional Assessment
 - Amplified Phone benefits
- Communication of Costs and Agent involvement

Filings



- September 7th – American Academy of Audiology
 - Reject conclusions of FCC regarding current assessments
 - Audiologists are experts in hearing loss and communication disorders.
 - Critical to ensuring access to IP CTS
 - Audiologists receive no compensation currently direct or indirect
 - Work with the FCC to explain the role of an Audiologist
- Met with FCC on October 12th
 - Training Program

Filings



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION



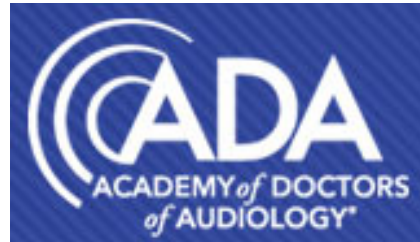
- September 14th – American Speech-Language Hearing Association
 - Do not restrict Access for those that need the services
 - Partner with FCC to develop Educational program for Users & Caregivers
 - Campaign for best practices in Assessment and certification of IP CTS users
 - No Kick-backs currently in place

Filings



- September 17th – International Hearing Society
 - 9,000 Hearing Aid Dispensers certified by state programs
 - Reach rural communities
 - Partner with FCC to develop Educational program for Users & Caregivers
 - Campaign for best practices in Assessment and certification of IP CTS users
 - No Kick-backs currently in place

Filings



- Worked in Partnership with all filings to represent Audiologists
- Continues to focus efforts on Patient Care Act

Filings



- September 9th – October 16th
 - Multiple State Public Utility Commissions, Telephone Associations, TRS Administrators
 - Indicate state certification is possible
 - Request Pilot programs to gauge costs
 - Timeline to transition services
 - Staffing concerns

Decision Timeline



- Rolka Loubé – Request for extension – November 19th
- FCC Review of all filings, ex-parte meetings, and industry submissions
- June 2019

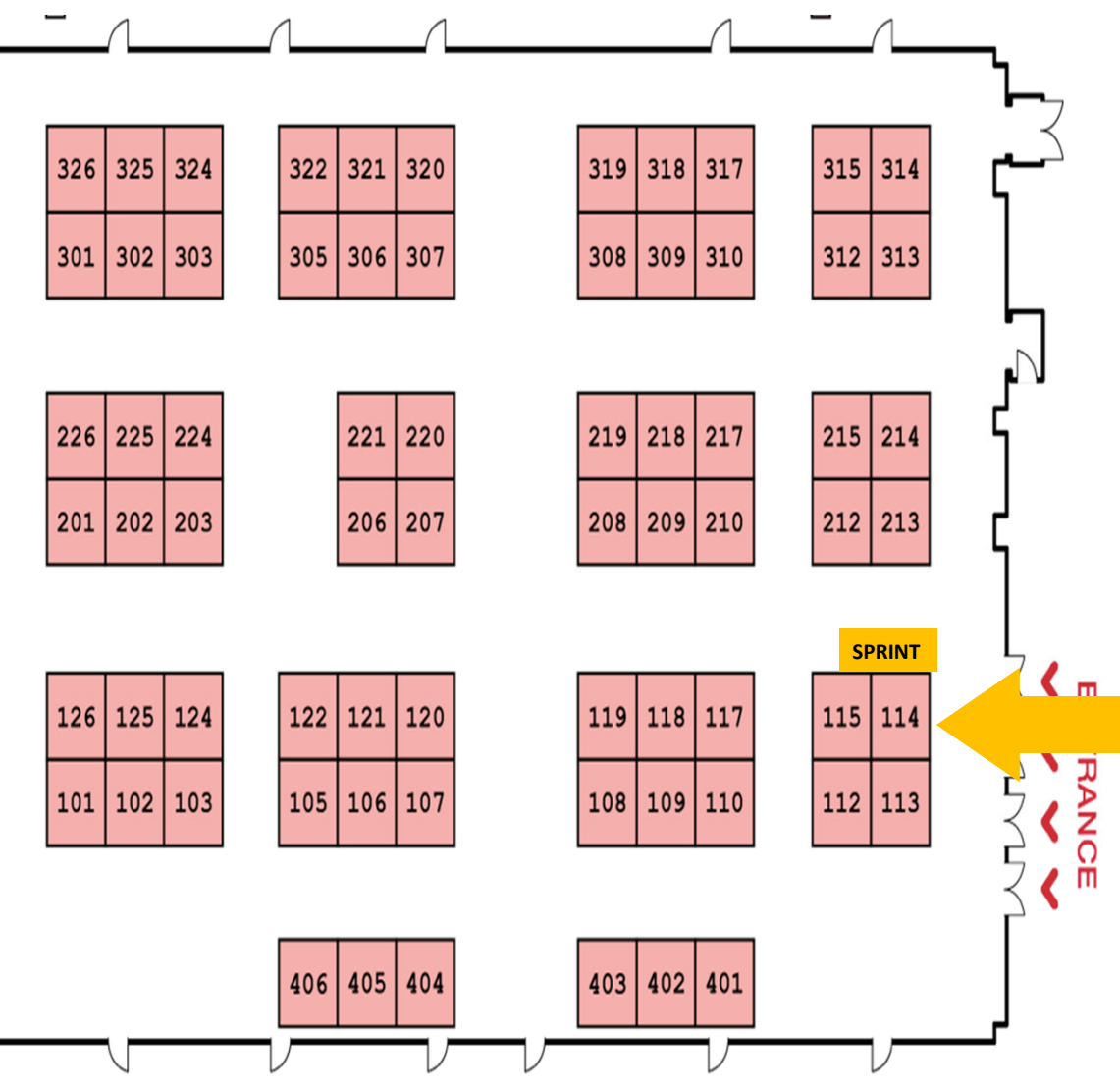
How to Contact the FCC:

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Q&A



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