

# Dialing the Area Code for Local Calls is Coming to the Missouri 573 Area Code on February 24, 2024

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the Missouri Public Service Commission approved the addition of the new 235 area code to the geographic region served by the 573 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 (235) to the same geographic region as an existing area code (573). An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code. However, it does require using a new dialing procedure to complete local calls.

## *Who will be affected?*

Anyone with a 573 area code telephone number will be affected. The 573 area code currently serves most of the eastern half of Missouri and includes the state capitol of Jefferson City. It serves communities such as Columbia, Cape Girardeau, Farmington, Fort Leonard Wood, Hannibal, Poplar Bluff, Rolla, Sikeston, and many other smaller communities. The new 235 area code will serve the same geographic area currently served by the existing 573 area code.

## *What will be the new dialing procedure?*

The new dialing procedure will require **all calls in the 573 area code currently dialed with seven digits be dialed using area code + telephone number (10 digits)**. The same dialing procedure will apply to telephone numbers that are assigned in the new 235 area code.

## *When will the change begin?*

Beginning **February 24, 2024**, you must dial the area code + telephone number on all calls, including calls within the same area code. On and after this date, if you do not dial the area code + telephone number, your calls will not complete and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again, including the area code.

Beginning **March 24, 2024**, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers with the new 235 area code. If you have a 235 area code, you must dial the area code + telephone number or the call will not complete.

## *What will you need to do?*

In addition to dialing the area code + telephone number for all local calls, all services, automatic dialing equipment and other types of equipment programmed to complete calls to 7-digit numbers will need reprogrammed to include the area code. Some examples include 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. Also be sure to check websites, personal and business stationery, 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.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- You will continue to dial 1+area code+telephone number for all long-distance calls.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 811 or 988 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their three-digit codes.

## *Who may you contact with questions?*

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call Fidelity Communications at 800-392-8070, access [www.fidelitycommunications.com](http://www.fidelitycommunications.com), or the Missouri Public Service Commission at [https://psc.mo.gov/Telecommunications/Telephone\\_NumbersLocal\\_Dialing](https://psc.mo.gov/Telecommunications/Telephone_NumbersLocal_Dialing).