

FIRST CHOICE TECHNOLOGY, INC

ROBOCALL MITIGATION PROGRAM

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I. PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAM

First Choice Technology, Inc., on behalf of itself as well as its sister corporation, First Choice Technology of Louisiana, LLC (jointly, “the Company”), established a Robocall Mitigation Program (Program), implementing the policies and procedures within this Program for the reduction of the origination of illegal robocalls. In addition to these policies and procedures, the Company commits to cooperating with the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), law enforcement, and the industry traceback consortium in investigating and stopping any illegal robocallers that it learns are using its service to originate calls.

II. DEFINITIONS

Frequently used terms throughout this Program shall be defined as follows, in conjunction with any and all definitions as identified in 47 CFR § 64.6300.

Customer: A service provider’s subscriber, which may or may not be the ultimate End User of the telecommunications service.

End User: The entity ultimately consuming the telecommunications service and may include the End User’s device used for placing the call.

Foreign Voice Service Provider: Any entity providing voice service outside the United States that has the ability to originate voice service that terminates in a point outside that foreign country or terminate voice service that originates from points outside that foreign country.

Industry Traceback Consortium: The consortium that conducts private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls as selected by the Commission pursuant to §64.1203.

Robocall Mitigation Database: A database accessible via the Commission's website that lists all entities that make filings pursuant to §64.6305(b).

Telecommunications Carrier: a person or entity that meets the definition of 47 U.S.C. 1001(8), including a person or entity that FCC finds that its service is a replacement for a substantial portion of the local telephone exchange service under 47 U.S.C. § 1008(B) (ii).

Voice Service: Any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended; and includes:

(i) Transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine; and

(ii) Without limitation, any service that enables real-time, two-way voice communications, including any service that requires Internet Protocol-compatible customer premises equipment and permits out-bound calling, whether or not the service is one-way or two-way voice over Internet Protocol.

This includes common carrier voice, interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), one-way VoIP, fax transmissions, and over-the-top voice services.

III. STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of this Company to comply with the letter and spirit of all laws of the United States, applicable state statutes, and rules and requirements of the FCC. The Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act (TRACED Act) requires a voice service provider to implement robocall mitigation strategies to reduce the origination of illegal robocalls, including implementing the STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication technology in the IP portions of their phone networks as well as developing non-IP caller ID authentication solutions.

As a part of its Robocall Mitigation Program, the Company will:

- (i) Vet all potential new clients via process outlined in section V. B. below along with blocking all traffic that have a Called From number that is listed as a Do Not Originate number or is not an active NPA-NXX-A block in the LERG;
- (ii) Commit to respond to all traceback requests within a 24-hour time period; and
- (iii) File its Robocall Mitigation Program in the Robocall Mitigation database.

This Program constitutes the required policies and procedures to implement the Company's Robocall Mitigation Program. All officers, employees, or agents of the Company are required to follow the policies and procedures specified in this Program.

IV. GENERAL POLICIES FOR ROBOCALL MITIGATION

A. Requirements of Company to Mitigate Illegal Robocalls

All officers, employees, and agents of the Company understand and agree that they will follow strictly the applicable federal and state laws, court orders, FCC Regulations, and the Company's policies and procedures in carrying out the responsibilities as described in this Program.

B. Legal vs. Illegal Robocalls

Voice Service Providers are required to take reasonable steps to avoid originating illegal robocall traffic, as defined within the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

Pursuant to the TCPA, and for purposes of this Program, an illegal robocall is a call:

- To a landline that leaves a pre-recorded or artificial voice message for telemarketing purposes, without a customer's prior consent.
 - o Non-telemarketing calls to landlines, regardless of whether it is pre-recorded or an artificial voice message, are not considered illegal robocalls.
- To a wireless phone that leaves a pre-recorded or artificial voice message, or is made with autodialer equipment, without the customer's prior consent.
 - o Calls to wireless phones do not need to be telemarketing in nature to constitute an

illegal robocall; any telemarketing or information call made using the mechanisms above, and without prior consent, constitutes an illegal robocall.

The Company will implement its Program policies and procedures in an effort to reduce perceived illegal calls of the above types. If a customer claims that a call has been incorrectly flagged as an illegal robocall, the customer can notify the Company for a more in-depth determination as to the legality of the call(s) in question.

V. PROCEDURES FOR ROBOCALL MITIGATION

A. Contact

Pursuant to 47 CFR 64.6305(B)(4), the Company has designated a point of contact to receive notice of any incidents of illegal robocall traffic. This Point of Contact is named in Appendix 1 of this Program.

When the Company makes a verified determination of an illegal robocall originating from the Company's network, the following actions will be initiated:

1. The Company personnel will review the call information to determine whether the call is from the Company's network or one of its affiliates. If the call is from an entity other than the Company, the notice will be forwarded on to that entity for review and any action or response.
2. The following actions may be taken with offenders:
 - a. If the offender is an employee, the responsible supervisor will be notified, and appropriate disciplinary action may be warranted. A copy of the violation will be filed by HR in the employee's personnel file.
 - b. If the offender is a customer, the customer will be notified by telephone and email of the offense. If it is a first-time offense, the customer will be notified and advised that an alleged violation has been received and that any further violations could affect the customer's account. Notification of a second offense will result in the same action. A third offense will result in notice that the customer's service has been restricted for ninety (90) days to limit the ability to violate the law. A fourth offense will result in termination of service. Notwithstanding the above, Company reserves the right to expedite termination of service.

In addition to the above actions the Company may take when it identifies a pattern consistent with illegal robocalls, the Company may also initiate or cooperate in a traceback investigation to verify that the originating customer owns or is authorized to use a Caller ID number. In conjunction with following Industry Traceback Group-recommended best practices, the Company has sufficient resources to promptly respond to traceback and trace forward investigations.

Upon receipt of notice from the Company that an illegal robocall originated from customer's number, customer may dispute the determination.

1. If the customer's number has been inadvertently flagged as illegal robocalling due to third-party unauthorized spoofing of the customer's number, the Company will make a good faith effort to contact database vendors in an attempt to correct the issue.
2. If the robocall was a legal robocall originating from the customer, the circumstances of the robocall will be reviewed with the customer and the customer will be monitored for a thirty (30) day period thereafter.

B. Subscriber Vetting

The Company will vet the identity of retail and, if applicable, wholesale subscribers, in conjunction with (i) approving applications for service; (ii) provisioning network connectivity; (iii) entering into any contract agreements; or (iv) granting the right-to-use telephone number resources. In its vetting process, Company will confirm the identity of new or renewing business customers by collecting information such as the following:

- (i) physical business location;
- (ii) a contact person for the business;
- (iii) state or country of incorporation;
- (iv) nature of customer's business.

The Company will complete an additional review of any outbound call centers or high-volume origination services within its network, including more stringent background checks, require completion of "Know Your Customer" document and site visits as needed.

Know Your Customer

First Choice Technology, Inc. ("First Choice") is a provider of both domestic voice services to end-user customers and wholesale services to other voice only providers. For wholesale services, First Choice currently only interconnects with US based entities with active 499 filer IDs, certified on the Robocall Mitigation Database and who have been registered with the FCC for longer than six months. All new customers must meet 100% of the requirements on First Choice's New Customer Onboarding Checklist and provide a screenshot of their prior 60-day traceback history.

Additional measures are taken to verify a carrier's legitimacy prior to entering into a Master Services Agreement ("MSA") with a carrier. These measures include but are not limited to having a prospective new customer complete the First Choice Customer Profile Form and service order Interconnection Form. These forms collect detailed background information about each customer. Required information is as follows:

- Customer Name, DBA/Other Trade Names, Holding Company
- Type of Entity (Corporation, Individual, Partnership, LLC, etc.)
- Type of Business (Wholesale/Retail)
- Website URL
- State of Incorporation
- FCC 499 Filer ID Name/#, FCC Registration Name/#
- Headquarters Physical, Billing, Other Associated and Previous Addresses
- Key Personnel Contact Information (Main, Legal, Billing/AP, Technical/NOC)
- Google Search of Key Personnel
- Payment Remittance Entity Name/Bank Name
- Officers/Owners/Principals – Contact Information and Ownership %
- Contact Information for a Minimum of 3 Trade and Bank References

This information is audited in its entirety and verified for accuracy within reason and to the best of First Choice's ability prior to entering into a MSA with a carrier.

Acceptable Use Policy

Before First Choice executes any agreement, customers must agree to the terms and conditions, including a commitment to comply with First Choice's Terms of Use. Among other things, these Terms prohibit:

- Using the Services to engage in any activities that are illegal, abusive, false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading, or any activity that exploits, harms, or threatens to harm children.
- Using First Choice's Services in any way that fails to conform to any applicable industry guidelines and standards, including, without limitation, the CTIA Messaging Principles and Best Practices, Short Code Registry Best Practices, and Short Code Monitoring Handbook.
- Creating a false identity, forged email address or header, phone number, or otherwise attempting to mislead others as to the identity of the sender or the origin of a message or phone call, including failing to comply with the Truth in Caller ID Act.
- Engaging in any unsolicited advertising, marketing, or other unlawful activities using the Services that violate laws applicable to advertising, electronic communications, and telemarketing, including, but not limited to, Section 5 of the FTC Act (15 U.S.C. § 45), the CAN-SPAM Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 7701-7713), the Telemarketing Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6108), the Federal Trade Commission Telemarketing Sales Rule (16 C.F.R. § 310 et seq.), the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (47 U.S.C. §§ 227), the Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 C.F.R. 64.1200 et seq.) and orders implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, and all federal and state Do Not Call and calling-time restriction laws and regulations

First Choice's customer MSA allows and authorizes First Choice to suspend and/or terminate all Services in any event of fraudulent practices including but not limited to an AUP violation.

Recurring Customer Reviews

Monthly Customer Review:

- Purpose: To verify the status of each wholesale customer's 499 filer ID and Robocall Mitigation Database status.
- Objective: Ensure that customers' 499 filer IDs are still active and that they are complying with RMD requirements as per relevant regulations or policies.

Quarterly Customer Review:

- Purpose: To perform a comprehensive review of all customers.
- Objective: This review involves an Internet search of each customers' company name and principals to ensure no negative allegations, lawsuits or other relevant information against customer has been made public since initial onboarding date.

Annual Customer Review:

- Purpose: The primary purpose of an annual review of KYC documents is to confirm the accuracy and validity of the customer's identity and information. It helps detect any discrepancies or changes that may have occurred over the course of the year and is crucial for regulatory compliance.
- Objective: The information on these documents is cross-referenced with the information stored in the customer's account. Any discrepancies or inconsistencies are flagged for further investigation.

C. Service Agreements

The Company maintains a document (e.g. Acceptable User Policy (AUP), Tariff, etc.) outlining the acceptable uses of the service and prohibits among other things:

- (i) modification of network information for deceptive purposes;
- (ii) violation of local, state, or federal laws; and
- (iii) use of the Company's network to engage in fraudulent activity.

The Company reserves the right to suspend or terminate any subscriber account for violating the service terms. The Company will also require a point of contact which can be contacted if needed for traceback cooperation in case illegal robocalling is detected.

The following subsections (D) – (F) do not specifically apply to First Choice since First Choice is a switchless reseller and does not own any facilities. The following provisions summarize the actions taken by First Choice's Underlying Network Providers ("UNP") to comply with the RMP and Stir/Shaken obligations.

D. Telephone Number Validation

A subscriber is permitted to use a telephone number as their caller identity, if a number is directly managed by the Company and/or obtained by the Company via a UNP. Where equipment allows, the UNP has established a process for ensuring subscribers are utilizing only telephone numbers assigned to them or have been authorized for use. For subscribers with a single line service, the Class 5 switch has been set up to only accept calls from the number assigned to that subscriber, for both services connected via TDM or IP, at the time-of-service origination. For subscribers with multi-line telephone systems (MLTS), for both services connected via TDM or IP, the UNP screens all originating calls and only allows the call to be connected if the originating telephone number matches one of the assigned numbers to that MLTS subscriber. For both single line services and MLTS, this screening conducted by each Class 5 switch allows for an automated and secure means of validating all originating telephone numbers. With validating and accepting only assigned or approved numbers are being used by the originating calling party, the UNP can fully cooperate with traceback efforts. If the UNP has a subscriber that requires to originate a number that has not been assigned to them, the UNP requires a Letter of Authorization (LOA) or other acceptable representation that they are the authorized user of the number to validate and authorize its use before allowing it to be originated on the network.

All class 4 SIP traffic will follow the UNP's Stir/Shaken attestation rules.

E. Network Capacity Limitations

The Company has reviewed the network capacity requirements for the two primary segments of the network, subscriber facing and PSTN facing, and has established appropriate capacity limitations to align with each service need. By limiting the capacity of each segment of the network based on service needs allows the Company to mitigate the risk of flooding the network with unintended calls, such that it is appropriately sized to minimize call blocking, but not allow excess calling capability that could be used to generate illegitimate traffic. These efforts protect both on-network and off-network subscribers to be able to traceback originating calls to their source.

For the subscriber facing segment of the network, when a new service is established the capacity requirements are discussed with each subscriber. For example, if providing service to a MLTS, the concurrent call capacity is determined by understanding the subscribers service needs such as how many end points will be used, average call usage and other metrics. This allows the Company to establish connectivity to MLTS that is right sized based on the subscribers need. This connectivity is capped by the Class 5 switch so no more concurrent calls than the identified number can originate. This concurrent call capacity is monitored and can be expanded by the subscriber when the service need is identified. In addition to limiting the capacity of originating calls for MLTS, the Company also limits the number of concurrent calls for individual lines based on the service need. This is accomplished within the Class 5 switch by

restricting the number concurrent calls of each end point to the original subscriber service request. Similarly, this will not allow an unintended number of calls to originate from a subscriber.

For the PSTN facing segment of the network, all connections to tandem switches, other service providers and interexchange carriers are limited to a concurrent call capacity sufficient to limit call blocking, but not grossly oversized to allow for opportunity to flood the PSTN with illegitimate traffic. These capacity limits are set on both trunk groups regardless of technology and are scaled back or expanded when thresholds for the trunk capacity are reached.

F. Network Monitoring

The Company has setup a recurring schedule for conducting a comprehensive network monitoring plan with the goal of identifying irregular calling patterns that may indicate potential illegal originating robocalls. The schedule and areas of the network being monitored for illegal originating robocalls are outlined below:

Tandem Monitoring:

The Company has established a routine process of monitoring call quantity and patterns for originating traffic sent over the tandem trunk groups. By monitoring this traffic over an extended period of time, the Company has established a baseline for traffic patterns based on their subscriber's regular usage. If the Company notices spikes or changes greater than their predefined engineered threshold per trunk group, further analysis is conducted to identify the source of the change.

This monitoring is conducted on a daily basis for this portion of the network.

If the Company's monitoring process identifies the potential of illegal robocalls originating from the network, Company will follow the internal policy and procedure in accordance with this Program.

Local Monitoring:

The Company has deployed local monitoring tools based on the capabilities of the Class 5 switch. The Class 5 switch statistics allow the Company to monitor originating traffic for all trunk groups or traffic to a particular carrier. The data collected is able to provide reports that can include total originating calls and total originating call usage. By monitoring this traffic over an extended period of time, the Company has established a baseline for traffic patterns based on their subscriber's regular usage. If the Company notices spikes or changes greater than their predefined engineered threshold per trunk group, further analysis is conducted to identify the source of the change.

This monitoring is conducted on a daily basis for this portion of the network.

If concerns are identified for any individual line or MLTS, usage statistics can be used to further monitor that particular subscriber's service specifically. The Company can set up

reports to monitor originating call attempts and originating call usage. This data can help set a baseline of normal traffic patterns and signal when abnormal traffic patterns are emerging in order to further investigate.

If the Company's monitoring process identifies the potential of illegal robocalls originating from the network, the Company will follow the internal policy and procedure in accordance with this Program.

Call Record Monitoring:

The Company processes call detail records on a nightly basis by exporting the data from the all switch platforms. These call records can be used to help identify the potential of illegal originating robocalls. If the Company becomes concerned with any subscriber based on the collective and comprehensive efforts identified in this Program, the call records can be analyzed and summarized to flag traffic that has the characteristics of illegal originating robocall traffic. The monitoring includes high call volumes, low duration calls, sequential dialing patterns, calls to NPA-NXXs not assigned by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and other evolving best practices as identified by the collective industry helping to combat identifying illegal robocalls.

Where equipment permits, the Company has deployed a monitoring/diagnostics tool as part of their switching network. This diagnostics tool provides detailed call traces suitable for the Company to diagnose, monitor and collect data associated with calls traversing the network. When the monitoring/diagnostics tools are enabled on the switching system, traces are recorded for all calls and transferred to an external database for future review. These traces do not have to be individually enabled on particular lines or subscribers and are always active. When investigating suspicious traffic, a web application is used to search the database for traces for particular lines or subscribers and to view the traces. The application also allows traces to be printed or exported for offline storage for further evaluation if required. The traces include decoded signaling messages, routing and number validation events, call service actions/decisions, codec selection, echo cancellation programming, media events such as digit and tone detection, tone generation, and digit out-pulsing, billing records and concise call logs. This collection of data allows for a comprehensive ability to monitor network traffic.

This monitoring is conducted on an as needed basis for specific subscribers suspected of illegal originating robocalls.

If the Company's monitoring process identifies the potential of illegal robocalls originating from the network, the Company will follow the internal policy and procedure in accordance with this Program.

G. Do Not Call Registry

The Company has implemented a policy that will block traffic from inactive NPANXX blocks as well as the ITG list of do not originate TN's.

H. International Call Originators

The Company is not a Foreign Voice Service Provider.

I. Certification and Contact Updates

As required, the Company will submit any necessary updates because of changes to the Company certification, identification information, or contact information to the Commission within 10 business days of the change.

APPENDIX 1
Point of Contact

Pursuant to 47 CFR 64.6305(B)(4), the Company hereby designates the following senior officer or employee to serve as the Point of Contact for notification of illegal robocalls.

PRIMARY CONTACT: _____

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

APPENDIX 2
Know Your Customer Doc

KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER FORM

Please complete this form in its entirety for faster processing

First Choice ROBOCALLING DEFINITION & POLICY

A Robocall is defined as an automated telephone call initiated by a computer program using an auto-dialer or predictive-dialer where a pre-recorded message may be played to the US consumer. We have zero tolerance for illegal robocalling where, (1) calls are made from spoofed DIDs, or (2) calls to US consumers by fraudulently posing as a government agency, large corporation, or any other entity, with the intent to defraud a US consumer is strictly prohibited.

APPLICANT'S BUSINESS INFORMATION - CARRIERS

Registered name of business

Have you previously applied to become or were a First Choice customer?

☐

NO

☐

YES

If yes when?

Business Entity Type

☐

Corporation

☐

Sole Proprietor

☐

LLC

☐

Other

Type of Traffic

☐

Aggregator

☐

Reseller

☐

SMS

Call Duration

☐

Short

☐

Conversational

**Traffic Profile (current
volume of monthly minutes)**

USA

International by top destinations

Principal(s) and/or Individual(s) who control the Company

Address

(Headquarters or Main Location)

Address 1

Address 2

City

State

Zip

Country

Billing Address

Address 1

Address 2

☐ Check if same as above

City

State

Zip

Country

Main Telephone
Number

URL

Social Media
pages

State or Country of Incorporation/Organization

Year Incorporated

Years In Business

Name and title

Phone

Email

**Legal Compliance Contact (the person
responsible for compliance with the
Telemarketing**

**Sales Rule and other State and Federal laws
governing telemarketing and
automated dialing)**

Teams

Skype

TRACEBACK HISTORY – ITG Screenshot Showing History Required

Have you received any Traceback requests from your carriers/suppliers within the last 6-months: ☒ NO ☒ YES

If yes, how many? _____ Dates of Tracebacks _____

FCC RMD & TAX INFORMATION

Note: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [requires](#) all voice service providers to file certifications in the [Robocall Mitigation Database](#) regarding their efforts to fight illegal robocalls on their networks. Unwanted calls—including illegal and spoofed robocalls—are the FCC’s top consumer complaint and a top consumer protection priority. Such voice service providers must certify whether and to what extent they have implemented the [STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication framework](#). *If not registered on the RMD, or if such registration is incomplete, your application cannot be processed.* This does not apply to enterprise Call/Contact Centers.

FRN Number: _____

Are you registered in the FCC Robocall Mitigation Database: _____

☒ NO ☒ YES

FCC 499 Filer ID Number:	_____	Name of Entity w/499 ID: (if differs from Company Name)	_____
Tax Exempt:	☐ NO ☐ YES	Federal Tax ID No (EIN) or Equivalent:	_____

...First Choice Form Continued

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

List of IP address you will use to send traffic to us _____

Name of switch, dialer, or hosted provider _____

TRADE REFERENCES – CARRIERS ONLY

Carrier Info	1 st Reference	2 nd Reference	3 rd Reference
Company			
Contact			
Phone			
Email			
Skype ID			

AUTOMATED DIALING & ROBOCALLING DISCLOSURES

Does your company initiate or transport robocalls/autodialed calls from the USA to the USA?

Does your company initiate or transport robocalls/autodialed calls from a foreign country to the USA?

If Yes, provide the name of the country(s) from which you will be sending traffic: _____

Has your company received a Civil Investigative Demand, or discontinued service due to a Court Order, Injunction or Temporary Restraining Order?

Please indicate whether you or calls that you dialed have been the subject of:

- (1) any formal written request from a government agency, subpoena, civil investigative demand, or other complaint, or
- (2) any lawsuit filed by the Federal Trade Commission, or any other law enforcement action by any NO other state or federal agency. Please explain the circumstances surrounding the investigation or lawsuit and the manner in which it was resolved:

Customer

Name:

Signed:

Print Name:

Title:

Date: