



Consumer Alert

Caller ID



Telecommunications technology has made it possible for anyone using a telephone equipped with Caller Identification (Caller ID) to see the telephone numbers and subscriber names of incoming calls made from anywhere in the country, including private and unlisted numbers.

However, telephone companies have been required by federal actions to protect the privacy of those called and the calling party. Telephone companies are required to make available a free, simple and consistent per-call blocking system to customers. Blocking prevents a caller's telephone number from appearing on the called party's Caller ID device.

There are a few steps you can take if you don't want your telephone number made available on calls you initiate.

Here's how to protect yourself!

Dial *67 before dialing any telephone number to block the called party from seeing your telephone number. If you have a rotary telephone, dial 1167. Blocking may interfere with a caller's ability to connect to a dialed number.

Are all calls protected by blocking?

You may be unable to block the identification of your number using *67 or 1167 when calls are made to:

- ✦ 800 or 888 Toll-Free Numbers
- ✦ Emergency Lines
- ✦ 700, 900, and 950 Numbers

Note: Some businesses use a centralized switching system. Caller ID may not be able to display the specific number of the caller when the call comes from a business with this type of system.

Who should you contact about Caller ID questions or problems?

Consumers should contact their local telephone company. For information on other telephone issues, contact the Michigan Public Service Commission at 1-800-292-9555, or www.michigan.gov/mpsc.

