

STATE TELEMARKETING LAWS

Tennessee

Telemarketing and Robocall Laws

Statutes, rules, and how they differ from the TCPA



By Adam Young and Harrison Gevirtz

<https://tcpa.com/state-telemarketing-laws/tennessee/>

01. Do Not Call/Text law

TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 65-4-401 TO 65-4-411

The state Register, \$500 annual registration, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. hours, caller identification, no caller ID blocking, texts since 2023.

02. Telemarketing Protection Act

TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 47-18-1501 TO 47-18-1527

ADAD permits and a \$10,000 bond, prior consent, no random or sequential dialing, internal do-not-call lists, \$1,000 per call.

AT A GLANCE

Tennessee at a glance

WHY TENNESSEE MATTERS

Solicitors register and pay \$500 a year before calling or texting Tennessee homes. From July 1, 2026, automated prerecorded solicitations are capped at 10,000 a month, with at least \$1,000 per violation.



Who and what is covered

A "telephone solicitation" is a voice communication, from Tennessee or elsewhere, that promotes a purchase, rental or investment, or requests a charitable contribution (§ 65-4-401(6) (A)).

Texts and cell phones

Since July 1, 2023, a parallel text message solicitation definition applies. Wireless carriers count as local exchange companies.

Aa. Callers

Any person or entity, wherever located, that telemarkets to people in Tennessee.

Bb. Exemptions

Prior express permission, 501(c) volunteers, existing customers within 12 months.

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Cc. Rule reach

TPUC rules include appointment, survey and give-away calls; not business numbers.





Consent for ADAD calls

No ADAD advertising or sales call without consent before the call (§ 47-18-1502(a)(1)). The ADAD definition needs automatic dialing and recorded messages, but no number generator.

Live operator

A live operator introduces the call and states an intent to play a recording. That consent covers only that one call.

Written consent

Standing consent must be written and states how to withdraw. It lasts two years and ends 15 days after a withdrawal letter.

01. Do Not Call/Text Register

TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 65-4-404, 65-4-405

No knowing call or text solicitation to a registered subscriber. Enrollment takes effect 30 days after the first day of the following month.

02. Internal do-not-call

TENN. CODE ANN. § 47-18-1526(b)

No unsolicited sales call to a residential, mobile or paging number without internal do-not-call procedures meeting 47 CFR 64 or 16 CFR 310.

DO-NOT-CALL

Do-not-call and opt-outs

IN PRACTICE

The TPUC folds Tennessee numbers from federal lists into the Register and updates it monthly. Get the newest version before calling. A due-care defense applies (§ 65-4-408).



Calling hours and identity

Without the subscriber's permission, no call or text solicitation outside 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., prevailing time; the rule uses local time at the called party's location (§ 65-4-402).

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First call, 8 a.m.

ADAD calls follow the same 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. window under § 47-18-1502(a)(2).



Say who is calling

At the start of each call or text, state the caller and the entity represented.



Staffed number

Give a number answered during solicitations; reply to TPUC complaints in 10 business days.

Autodialers and caller ID

Random or sequential dialing is banned for consumer ADAD calls even with consent, while list-based automated message calls are allowed only with consent. Duguid does not narrow the state definition.

Message rules

Name and number within 25 seconds and again at the end; hang up within 10 seconds if the person declines or hangs up.

Aa. **No blocking**

No knowing caller ID blocking, and no sales calls from unlisted numbers.

Bb. **ADAD ID**

Show the real number, or a Tennessee or toll-free number plus the name.

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Cc. **Penalty**

Each concealed or blocked call is a Class A misdemeanor, up to \$2,500.



Registration and bonding

Anyone making telephone or text solicitations to Tennessee residential subscribers registers with the TPUC. Parents, subsidiaries and affiliates count as one entity (§ 65-4-405(d)).

\$500

Annual registration

Due by May 1 for the July 1 to June 30 year. Calling listed numbers unregistered is a violation.



Group option

\$1,000 for a Principal Solicitor plus \$50 per Independent Solicitor; both are liable.



ADAD permit

A TPUC permit and a \$10,000 surety bond before any ADAD use; renew every two years.

Lawsuits and penalties



\$1,000

Per ADAD call in a civil action, paid to the state. Consumers may seek an injunction, with fees.

\$2,000

TPUC civil penalty per knowing Register violation, counted liberally, often per call or text.

Treble

From July 1, 2026, a cap violation is a Consumer Protection Act violation: actual damages, tripled if willful.





Tennessee vs. the TCPA

Tennessee is stricter on registration, ADAD permits and bonds, its broader ADAD definition, a total ban on random or sequential dialing, the monthly volume cap and a 12-month customer exemption. It is looser in having no private do-not-call damages.

Tennessee

\$500 registration, \$10,000 ADAD bond, 10,000 robocalls a month cap, 12-month customer exemption.

Federal TCPA

No registration, no volume cap, 18-month and 3-month exemptions, \$500 per call to the consumer.

The 2026 volume cap

No published opinion construing the Do Not Call/Text law or the Act was located, so this slot covers the newest rule: § 65-4-411, for automated prerecorded solicitations.

Undefined dialer term

The section uses "automated telephone dialing system" without a definition. Whether courts read it like Duguid is open.

Aa. **Records**

Count automated prerecorded solicitations to Tennessee homes each month.

Bb. **Reports**

At 500 or more a month, file records with the TPUC every six months.

500

Cc. **Cap**

No more than 10,000 a month; at least \$1,000 per violation in court.



Amendment history

1990

CTPA enacted

The Consumer Telemarketing Protection Act of 1990 sets the ADAD rules.

2023

Pub. Ch. 126

Extends §§ 65-4-401 to 65-4-408 to texts, from July 1, 2023.

2024

TPUC rules

Revised Do Not Call/Text Regulations, effective October 7, 2024.

2026

Pub. Ch. 1029

Adds § 65-4-411: records, reports and the 10,000 a month cap, from July 1.

01. Register, hours and ID

TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 65-4-401 TO 65-4-405

- Register and pay \$500 by May 1 before calling or texting.
- Suppress Register numbers monthly, for calls and texts.
- Call or text 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; identify yourself at the start.
- Limit the customer exemption to 12 months.

02. ADADs and the 2026 cap

TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 47-18-1502, 65-4-411

- Get the permit, \$10,000 bond and consent before ADAD calls.
- No random or sequential dialing; ID within 25 seconds.
- Stay under 10,000 a month; report at 500 or more.

CHECKLIST

Compliance checklist

PLEASE NOTE

This checklist summarizes state law for general information and is not legal advice. Statutes change; confirm current text with the official source.



Sources behind this deck

TENNESSEE LAW

[Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-401 to 65-4-411](#) Do Not Call/Text law (FindLaw)

[Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 47-18-1501 to 47-18-1527](#) Consumer Telemarketing Protection Act (FindLaw)

[Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 47-18-109, 47-18-110](#) Consumer Protection Act remedies (FindLaw)

[Public Chapter 126 \(2023\)](#) texts

[Senate Bill 868 \(2023\)](#)

[Public Chapter 1029 \(2026\)](#) § 65-4-411

[House Bill 2408 \(2026\)](#) bill information

TENNESSEE LAW (CONTINUED)

[Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. ch. 1220-04-11](#) TPUC Do Not Call/Text Regulations (Oct. 2024)

[TPUC: Do Not Call/Text Resources](#)

FEDERAL LAW

[47 U.S.C. § 227](#) Telephone Consumer Protection Act

[47 C.F.R. § 64.1200](#) FCC telemarketing and robocall rules

[16 C.F.R. Part 310](#) FTC Telemarketing Sales Rule

Read the full Tennessee guide: <https://tcpa.com/state-telemarketing-laws/tennessee/>

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Full text: <https://tcpa.com/disclaimer/> and <https://tcpa.com/terms/>

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The law changes

Current as of October 15, 2026. Statutes, FCC and FTC rules and court decisions change, and some changes are adopted before they take effect. This deck may not reflect later developments.

Courts disagree. Courts in different places can read the same rule differently. Case summaries are not predictions: any other matter turns on its own facts, court and law.

Check the official source. Verify each point against the statute, rule or opinion on the Sources slide. If an official source and this deck differ, the official source controls.

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Read the full Tennessee guide on TCPA.com

The guide covers registration, the Do Not Call/Text Register, calling hours, ADAD permits and consent, the 2026 volume cap and penalties, with links to the official sources.



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Adam Young is a Miami entrepreneur, the CEO of Ringba and the author of The Pay Per Call Revolution, with more than a decade in telecom, call routing and performance marketing. At TCPA.com he writes about the TCPA, robocall enforcement, tech support fraud cases and what DOJ, FTC and FCC actions mean for companies that make calls. His goal is simple: keep good companies compliant and keep scammers off the phone network.

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