



### **FCC Eases Rules for Potential Move to Nationwide Number Portability**

On July 13, 2018, the FCC released an [Order](#) that (1) eliminated the last of the Dialing Parity rule and (2) eased the “N-1” rule. The amended rules will be effective 30 days after the Order is published in the Federal Register.

The Dialing Parity rule was intended to ensure consumers could choose and have access to stand-alone long distance providers without having to dial extra digits. ILEC’s received forbearance from this rule in 2015. With the elimination of this rule, it creates a level playing field since grandfathered dialing parity requirements are no longer in place and CLEC’s can also have forbearance from this rule.

Today, the N-1 rule requires the next to the last carrier in the call path to query the number portability database. For a local call, the N-1 carrier is generally the originating carrier and for a long distance call, the N-1 carrier is generally the long distance carrier. Under the new N-1 rule, originating carriers or other carriers earlier in the call path can perform the query if they choose. However, if carriers earlier in the call path do not perform the query, the responsibility continues to fall upon the N-1 carrier. The FCC is easing this rule in an attempt to pave the way for nationwide number portability.

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