



# OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **AG MASTO ANNOUNCES COURT ORDER HALTING LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM BILLING NEVADA RESIDENTS**

**Carson City, NV**— Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that a Carson City district court issued a temporary injunction halting practices by twelve Nevada based long distance telephone companies through a Modesto based company called, The Payment People.

The companies were charged with billing Nevada consumers for unauthorized long distance telephone services; failing to disclose material facts to consumers; providing telephone services in Nevada without permission by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada; failing to make required mail written notifications to consumers; and making false statements to local telephone companies that consumers had authorized the billing of services.

The companies identified in the injunction include Universal Call Plan, Inc.; Sure Connection LD, Inc.; Long Distance Depot, Inc.; Flat Rate Long Distance, Inc.; Long Distance Mart, Inc. ; Xoom Telecommunications, Inc.; Call Direct, Inc.; Call For Less, Inc.; Connect Direct LD, Inc.; Blue Sky Long Distance, Inc.; Coast to Coast Long Distance, Inc.; First Choice Long Distance, Inc.; Bundled Rate Long Distance Inc.; and Smart Dial, Inc.

“These companies are alleged to be alter egos of The Payment People, which have unlimited powers of attorney to operate these companies as they see fit,” said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. “The temporary injunction will protect Nevadans while the complaint is processed.”

Pending a hearing for a permanent injunction, the court order bars The Payment People, its operators Jeff McKay and Don McNely, and the fourteen other companies from billing Nevada consumers for services until such time as they are certified to provide such services by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. In addition, The Payment People are enjoined from billing Nevada consumers for telephone related services which have not been authorized, such as voicemail services.

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto warns consumers to check your monthly telephone bill as carefully as your credit card bill. She also warns consumers to be particularly careful if you see a reference to ESBI, USBI, ILD or PaymentOne. These companies are third party billing aggregators and any telephone bill referencing these or other unusually, named companies is a warning that you are being billed for third party services. If you see a reference to one of these companies on your telephone bill check out that section of the billing statement (usually on the last page) and carefully look for the name of the company they are billing for. It will usually be about half way down the page. The company identified next to the amount of the bill is the company billing you for third party services.

If you do not recognize the service for which you are being billed, call the reference number and question whether the bill is legitimate or not. If the company refuses to provide a refund, call your local telephone company about the matter. You can also call the Nevada Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1169 for assistance.

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