

Federal Communications Commission

§ 14.36

use of the Commission's dispute assistance process so long as a complaint is pending.

§ 14.33 Informal or formal complaints.

Complaints against manufacturers or service providers, as defined under this subpart, for alleged violations of this subpart may be either informal or formal.

§ 14.34 Informal complaints; form, filing, content, and consumer assistance.

(a) An informal complaint alleging a violation of section 255, 716 or 718 of the Act or parts 6, 7, or 14 of this chapter may be transmitted to the Enforcement Bureau by any reasonable means, including the Commission's online informal complaint filing system, U.S. Mail, overnight delivery, or email. Any Requests filed using a method other than the Commission's online system should include a cover letter that references section 255, 716, or 718 or the rules of parts 6, 7, or 14 of this chapter and should be addressed to the Enforcement Bureau.

(b) An informal complaint shall include:

(1) The name, address, email address, and telephone number of the complainant;

(2) The name, address, and telephone number of the manufacturer or service provider defendant against whom the complaint is made;

(3) The date or dates on which the complainant or person(s) on whose behalf the complaint is being filed either purchased, acquired, or used or attempted to purchase, acquire, or use the equipment or service about which the complaint is being made;

(4) A complete statement of fact explaining why the complainant contends that the defendant manufacturer or provider is in violation of section 255, 716 or 718 of the Act or the Commission's rules, including details regarding the service or equipment and the relief requested, and all documentation that supports the complainant's contention;

(5) A certification that the complainant submitted to the Commission a Request for Dispute Assistance, pursuant to §14.32, no less than 30 days before the complaint is filed;

(6) The complainant's preferred format or method of response to the complaint by the Commission and defendant (e.g., letter, facsimile transmissions, telephone (voice/TRS/TTY), email, audio-cassette recording, Braille, or some other method that will best accommodate the complainant's disability, if any); and

(7) Any other information that is required by the Commission's accessibility complaint form.

(c) Any party with a question about information that should be included in an Informal Complaint should email the Commission's Disability Rights Office at dro@fcc.gov or call (202) 418-2517 (voice), (202) 418-2922 (TTY).

§ 14.35 Procedure; designation of agents for service.

(a) The Commission shall forward any informal complaint meeting the requirements of §14.34 of this subpart to each manufacturer and service provider named in or determined by the staff to be implicated by the complaint.

(b) To ensure prompt and effective service of informal and formal complaints filed under this subpart, every manufacturer and service provider subject to the requirements of section 255, 716, or 718 of the Act and parts 6, 7, or 14 of this chapter shall designate an agent, and may designate additional agents if it so chooses, upon whom service may be made of all notices, inquiries, orders, decisions, and other pronouncements of the Commission in any matter before the Commission. The agent shall be designated in the manufacturer or service provider's annual certification pursuant to §14.31.

§ 14.36 Answers and replies to informal complaints.

(a) After a complainant makes a *prima facie* case by asserting that a product or service is not accessible, the manufacturer or service provider to whom the informal complaint is directed bears the burden of proving that the product or service is accessible or, if not accessible, that accessibility is not achievable under this part or readily achievable under parts 6 and 7. To carry its burden of proof, a manufacturer or service provider must produce