



## **Billing Glossary - Regulatory and Administrative Charges and Surcharges**

### **What are the state and federal universal service fund charges?**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and state public utility commissions (PUCs) impose a variety of tax-like surcharges on billed telecommunications and/or data revenue. These surcharges are used by the FCC and the states to ensure affordable access to internet and telecommunications services to under-served and low-income consumers, schools and libraries, rural healthcare facilities and the like. Providers such as Meriplex that offer intrastate, interstate and international telecommunication are required to contribute to these funds and these surcharges enable us to do so.

### **What are the cost recovery and administrative fees?**

The Carrier Cost Recovery and Admin Fees cover a variety of regulatory fees and expenses incurred by Meriplex. These fees also recover state business license fees and a portion of the internal costs and expenses incurred by Meriplex to implement, administer and comply with federal and state regulations and programs.

### **What is the 9-1-1- service fee?**

The 9-1-1- emergency service fee supports funding for the operation of 911 emergency telecommunications services where available. Generally, emergency personnel must have the capability to identify the location of a caller when they dial 911. The fee funds communications systems that support emergency response by police, fire ambulance and similar services.

### **What is the telecommunications relay service (TRS) charge?**

The FCC and/or state PUCs assess certain surcharges on billed revenue to fund communications programs to help hearing and speech-impaired individuals.

Colloquially, "relay service" makes sure messages are relayed between a hearing-impaired individual and hearing-abled individuals, often using specialized telecommunications devices authorized by the regulatory authorities. The TRS charge is designed to cover such surcharges.