

Responds to inquiry about various telecommunications-related taxes. See 35 ILCS 630/3 and 4; 35 ILCS 635/15. This is a GIL.

March 11, 2025

NAME
COMPANY
ADDRESS

Dear NAMEr:

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 20, 2025, in which you requested information. The Department issues two types of letter rulings. Private Letter Rulings (“PLRs”) are issued by the Department in response to specific taxpayer inquiries concerning the application of a tax statute or rule to a particular fact situation. A PLR is binding on the Department, but only as to the taxpayer who is the subject of the request for ruling and only to the extent the facts recited in the PLR are correct and complete. Persons seeking PLRs must comply with the procedures for PLRs found in the Department’s regulations at 2 Ill. Adm. Code 1200.110. The purpose of a General Information Letter (“GIL”) is to direct taxpayers to Department regulations or other sources of information regarding the topic about which they have inquired. A GIL is not a statement of Department policy and is not binding on the Department. See 2 Ill. Adm. Code 1200.120. You may access our website at <https://tax.illinois.gov/> to review regulations, letter rulings and other types of information relevant to your inquiry.

The nature of your inquiry and the information you have provided require that we respond with a GIL. In your letter you have stated and made inquiry as follows:

I was hoping to get some answers on IL taxes and fees on land line phone bills. I am including a copy of my phone bill for reference purposes. I had questions on the following items, all highlighted on my bill:

IL 911
IL PUC Tax
IL IMF
IL USF Surcharge
IL Telecom Relay Service
IL COUNTY Excise Tax

I would like to know what each one is and also the tax rate of each item – Based off of my location. Location being COUNTY – CITY IL. Also would like to know which governmental body receives each tax item.

DEPARTMENT’S RESPONSE:

COMPANY

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Below is a brief description of the taxes you inquired about including rates, a statutory citation, and which State agency collects and administers the tax. For those taxes administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue, further information can be found on the Department's website at tax.illinois.gov. For taxes and charges listed below that are collected by another State agency, you will need to contact the agency listed for more details.

IL 911: Emergency Telephone System Act surcharge imposed at \$1.50 per connection for telecommunications carriers (50 ILCS 750/20). Collected by Illinois State Police.

IL PUC Tax: Public Utilities Fund tax for regulation of public utilities imposed at 0.1% (220 ILCS 5/2-202(c)). Collected by Illinois Commerce Commission.

IL IMF: Telecommunications Infrastructure Maintenance Fee imposed at 0.5% (35 ICLS 635/15). Collected by Illinois Department of Revenue.

IL USF: Illinois Universal Service Fund surcharge. (220 ILCS 5/13-301). Collected by Illinois Commerce Commission.

IL Telecom Relay Service: Illinois Telecommunications Assistance Charge related to hearing impaired telecommunications services. (220 ILCS 5/13-703(c)). Collected by the Illinois Commerce Commission.

IL COUNTY Excise Tax: State Telecommunications Excise Tax (7%) (35 ILCS 630/3 & 4) and Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax – CITY = 1% (35 ILCS 636/5-10 & 5-15). Collected by Illinois Department of Revenue (local portion remitted to CITY).

I hope this information is helpful. If you require additional information, please visit our website at <https://tax.illinois.gov/> or contact the Department's Taxpayer Information Division at 800-732-8866.

Very truly yours,

Samuel J. Moore
Associate Counsel

SJM:sce