

Yellow Pages/Long Distance Scams

Both the yellow page and long distance schemes are similar.

Telemarketers call a business and talk to a low-level employee.

The telemarketer then indicates that they are from the “phone company” or “yellow pages” (“Yellow Pages” was never trade marked) and ask the person answering the phone to confirm the address of the business.

The telemarketer records the “yes” answers and pastes that response into a recording for the purchase of internet yellow page directories or to change the long distance provider for the business.

When an inquiry letter is sent, the company pulls out the doctored recording to prove the purchase.

Often, the amount of money involved is very small in the hopes that the business will not catch the fact that they are paying for these unordered services. Variations include web pages, voice mail and email services.

What to do?

Call the phone company and tell them to shut off “third-party billing”. That prevents companies from adding charges on to local phone bills.

Carefully review the phone bill and dispute any questionable charges.