

**FHH Telecom Law  
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**E-911 :  
DON'T CALL US,  
WE'LL CALL YOU**

The FCC has issued a series of decisions temporarily relieving certain wireless carriers of their obligation to meet the high E-911 Phase II requirements established by the rules. The FCC has been cracking an increasingly harsh whip on carriers who remain non-compliant with the Phase II rules which were put in place nearly seven years ago but still remain out of reach for some carriers. Phase II, you will no doubt recall, requires E-911 calls from mobile customers to be traceable to within 300 meters for network-based systems and 150 meters for handset-based systems. While most network-based carriers have, after much travail and many fines, come into some form of compliance, handset-based carriers have struggled. Either they have found that the right equipment for their system is not available from vendors, or they have found that their customers are not transitioning to new equipment fast enough to meet the FCC requirement that 95% of their handsets be location-capable by the end of 2005. Recognizing that these circumstances were not their fault, the FCC has somewhat grudgingly agreed to extension the compliance date for a year. In each case it is requiring periodic progress reports and extensive public education campaigns to encourage customers to switch phones. Whether the FCC will require wholesale distribution of free location-capable handsets when the next deadline approaches remains to be seen.