

**THANK YOU FOR USING GREEN MOUNTAIN LONG DISTANCE SERVICE.** In this Agreement ("Agreement"), "you" and "your" mean the customer of Green Mountain Long Distance Service defined below, and "GMLDS," "we," "our," and "us" mean Green Mountain Long Distance Service.

**BY ENROLLING IN, USING, OR PAYING FOR THE SERVICES, YOU AGREE TO THE PRICES, CHARGES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN THIS AGREEMENT. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO THESE PRICES, CHARGES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, DO NOT USE THE SERVICES, AND CANCEL THE SERVICES IMMEDIATELY BY CALLING GMLDS AT 1-800-496-3391 FOR FURTHER DIRECTIONS.**

"Service" or "Services" means: (1) the GMLDS state-to-state and international consumer telecommunications services you are enrolled in, use, or pay for that GMLDS provided to you under tariffs filed with the Federal Communications Commission as of July 31, 2001; and (2) any new or additional GMLDS state-to-state and international consumer telecommunications services that you enroll in, use, or pay for, after July 31, 2001.

This Agreement does not cover GMLDS in-state long distance services that are provided pursuant to state tariffs or any local, Internet, video or wireless services provided by GMLDS or its affiliates. The Services covered in this Agreement are subject to billing availability and may not be available at all locations.

The GMLDS website ([www.wcvt.com](http://www.wcvt.com)) contains the specific prices and charges, service descriptions and other terms and conditions not set forth here that apply to each of your Services.

**THIS AGREEMENT INCORPORATES BY REFERENCE THE PRICES, CHARGES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS INCLUDED ON THE GMLDS WEBSITE.**

#### **1. Charges and Payment.**

- a. General.** You agree to pay us for the Services at the prices and charges listed on the GMLDS website. The prices and charges for any particular call may depend on a number of factors listed on the GMLDS website, which include, for example, the duration of a call, the time of day and day of week, the distance called, and the type of service. Service types include, for example, direct-dialed from home, operator-assisted, or calling card calls. The prices and charges for the Services may also include, for example, monthly fees, monthly minimums, or connection charges.
- b. Price Changes.** We may change the prices and charges for the Services from time to time. We may decrease prices without providing advance notice. Increases to the prices or charges for the Services are effective no sooner than fifteen days after we post them on our web site at [www.wcvt.com](http://www.wcvt.com). Increases to charges that recover our costs associated with government programs are effective no sooner than three days after we post the increases on our website (excluding taxes and surcharges under Section 1.e.).

We will provide further notices of increases to the prices and charges by bill message or other notice.

- c. Payments.** You must pay all bills or invoices on time (on or before the due date) and in U.S. money. We do not waive our right to collect the full amount due if you pay late or you pay part of the bill, even if you write the words "Paid in Full" (or similar words) on any correspondence to us.

If your check, bank draft or electronic funds transfer is returned for insufficient funds, and we bill you for the Services, we will charge you an additional \$30. If the state law where you receive the Services requires a different fee, we will charge you that amount. If a local telephone company or other entity bills you for the Services on our behalf, that company's returned check charge and policy will apply. When payment is made by credit card, payment will also be subject to terms and conditions required by the credit card issuer.

- d. Charges and Billing.** Charges accrue through a full billing period. We may prorate or adjust a bill if the billing period covers less than or more than a full month. (For this purpose, each month is considered to have 30 days.) To determine the charge for each call, we round up to the next full minute for any fraction of minutes used. We will determine the format of the bill and the billing period, and we may change both the bill format and the billing period from time to time.

You are responsible for preventing the unauthorized use of the Services, and you are responsible for payment for any such unauthorized use.

- e. Taxes and Other Charges.** You must pay all taxes, fees, surcharges and other charges that we bill you for the Services, unless you can show documentation satisfactory to us that you are exempt. Taxes and surcharges will be in the amounts that federal, state and local authorities require us to bill you. We will not provide advance notice of changes to taxes and surcharges, except as required by applicable law.
- f. Credit Check and Deposits.** You give us permission to obtain your credit information from consumer credit reporting agencies at any time. If we bill you for the Services and we determine that you may be a credit risk for (1) unsatisfactory credit rating; (2) insufficient credit history; (3) fraudulent or abusive use of any GMLDS services within the last five years; or (4) late payments for current or prior bills, we may require a deposit (or an advance payment as permitted by state law) to ensure payment for the Services. The amount of the deposit will be no more than any estimated one-time charges required for the Services, plus three months of the estimated average per-minute charges and/or monthly fees for the Services. We will pay simple interest at the annual rate of 2.75% on the deposit, subject to the state law where you receive the Services. If you fail to pay for the Services when due, we may use the deposit without giving notice to you. If you pay

undisputed bills by the due date for twelve consecutive billing months, we will credit the deposit to your account. If a credit balance remains on your account, we will refund or credit that amount.

- g. Credit Limits.** If we bill you for the Services, we may set a credit limit based on your payment history or your credit score from consumer credit reporting agencies. If we do this, we will notify you of your initial credit limit and all changes to your credit limit. If you exceed your credit limit, we will restrict your access to the Services, including direct-dialed, operator-assisted, and calls requiring a 900 or 976 prefix. Access to emergency services (9-1-1) will not be affected by this restriction. If you fail to make timely payments, we may also lower your credit limit.

## 2. Suspending and Canceling the Services

- a. Your Cancellation of the Services.** If you use more than one Service, you may change or cancel individual Services by calling the GMLDS customer service number on your GMLDS bill, subject to the applicable terms and conditions on the GMLDS website. This Agreement remains in effect for any Services that you continue to be enrolled in, use, or pay for. If you want to cancel all of the Services, discontinue your use of all the Services and call us toll free at 1-800-496-3391 for further instructions.
- b. Fraudulent Use.** You will not use the Services for any unlawful, abusive, or fraudulent purpose, including, for example, using the Services in a way that (1) interferes with our ability to provide Services to you or other customers; or (2) avoids your obligation to pay for the Services. If GMLDS has reason to believe that you or someone else is abusing the Services or using them fraudulently or unlawfully, we can immediately suspend, restrict, or cancel the Services without advance notice.
- c. Failure to Pay.** Upon advance notice, we may suspend, restrict, or cancel the Services and this Agreement, if you do not make payments for current or prior bills by the required due date, including payments for late fees or any other required additional charges.
- d. Other.** GMLDS may from time to time discontinue certain Services, subject to applicable law and regulation.
- e. Outstanding Charges.** If Services are suspended, restricted, or cancelled, any charges will accrue through the date that GMLDS fully processes the suspension, restriction or cancellation. You must pay all outstanding charges for these Services, including payment of any bills that remain due after the date of cancellation. Subject to Section 7 and applicable state law, you must reimburse us for any reasonable costs we incur, including attorneys' fees, to collect charges owed to us. If you want us to renew the Services, we

may require that you pay a deposit and/or service restoral fee.

## 3. Indemnification

YOU AGREE THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS AGAINST US THAT ARISE FROM YOUR USE OF THE SERVICES. FURTHER, YOU AGREE TO REIMBURSE US FOR ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES RELATED TO THE DEFENSE OF ANY SUCH CLAIMS, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES, UNLESS SUCH CLAIMS ARE BASED ON OUR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE. THIS PROVISION WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY AFTER THE AGREEMENT ENDS.

## 4. Limitations of Liability

NOTHING IN THIS AGREEMENT LIMITS OUR LIABILITY, IF ANY, FOR OUR WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT. IF OUR NEGLIGENCE CAUSES DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WE WILL BE LIABLE FOR NO MORE THAN THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT DAMAGES TO THE PERSON OR PROPERTY. IF OUR NEGLIGENCE CAUSES DAMAGE OF ANY OTHER SORT, WE WILL BE LIABLE FOR NO MORE THAN THE AMOUNT OF OUR CHARGES FOR THE SERVICES DURING THE AFFECTED PERIOD. FOR ALL CLAIMS THAT ARE NOT THE RESULT OF GMLD'S WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WE WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR PUNITIVE, RELIANCE, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES (UNLESS AN APPLICABLE STATUTE EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZES SUCH DAMAGES), AND WE WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOST PROFITS OR REVENUE OR INCREASED COSTS OF OPERATION. THESE LIMITATIONS APPLY EVEN IF THE DAMAGES WERE FORESEEABLE OR WE WERE TOLD THEY WERE POSSIBLE, AND THEY APPLY TO ANY NEGLIGENCE CLAIM THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, NO MATTER HOW THAT CLAIM IS STYLED OR ON WHAT LEGAL GROUNDS (SUCH AS CONTRACT, TORT, STATUTE, MISREPRESENTATION) IT IS BASED. WE WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES — AND WILL BE LIABLE ONLY FOR THE AMOUNT OF OUR CHARGES FOR THE SERVICES DURING THE AFFECTED PERIOD — IF SERVICES ARE INTERRUPTED, OR THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE INTERCONNECTION OF OUR SERVICES WITH THE SERVICES OR EQUIPMENT OF SOME OTHER PARTY. THIS SECTION WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY AFTER THE AGREEMENT ENDS.

## 5. Warranties

EXCEPT AS THIS AGREEMENT EXPRESSLY STATES, WE MAKE NO EXPRESS WARRANTY REGARDING THE SERVICES AND DISCLAIM ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. WE ALSO MAKE NO WARRANTY THAT THE SERVICES WILL BE

UNINTERRUPTED OR ERROR FREE. WE DO NOT AUTHORIZE ANYONE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, GMLD EMPLOYEES, AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES, TO MAKE A WARRANTY OF ANY KIND ON OUR BEHALF AND YOU SHOULD NOT RELY ON ANY SUCH STATEMENT.

#### 6. Credit Allowances For Interruptions

If an interruption or failure of Services is caused solely by GMLDS and not by you or a third party or other causes beyond our reasonable control, you may be entitled to a credit allowance as specified in the applicable GMLDS Service Guide.

#### 7. Dispute Resolution

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THIS ENTIRE SECTION CAREFULLY. THIS SECTION PROVIDES FOR RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES THROUGH FINAL AND BINDING ARBITRATION BEFORE A NEUTRAL ARBITRATOR INSTEAD OF IN A COURT BY A JUDGE OR JURY OR THROUGH A CLASS ACTION. YOU CONTINUE TO HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS TO OBTAIN RELIEF FROM A FEDERAL OR STATE REGULATORY AGENCY.

**a. Binding Arbitration.** The arbitration process established by this section is governed by the Federal Arbitration Act ("FAA"), 9 U.S.C. §§ 1–16. You have the right to take any dispute that qualifies to small claims court rather than arbitration. All other disputes arising out of or related to this Agreement (whether based in contract, tort, statute, fraud, misrepresentation or any other legal or equitable theory) must be resolved by final and binding arbitration. This includes any dispute based on any product, service or advertising having a connection with this Agreement and any dispute not finally resolved by a small claims court. The arbitration will be conducted by one arbitrator using the procedures described by this Section 7. If any portion of this Dispute Resolution Section is determined to be unenforceable, then the remainder shall be given full force and effect. The arbitration of any dispute shall be conducted in accordance with the American Arbitration Association's ("AAA") Supplementary Procedures for Consumer-Related Disputes, as modified by this Agreement, which are in effect on the date a dispute is submitted to the AAA. You have the right to be represented by counsel in an arbitration. In conducting the arbitration and making any award, the arbitrator shall be bound by and strictly enforce the terms of this Agreement and may not limit, expand, or otherwise modify its terms.

NO DISPUTE MAY BE JOINED WITH ANOTHER LAWSUIT, OR IN AN ARBITRATION WITH A DISPUTE OF ANY OTHER PERSON, OR RESOLVED ON A CLASS-WIDE BASIS. THE ARBITRATOR MAY NOT AWARD DAMAGES THAT ARE BARRED BY THIS AGREEMENT AND MAY NOT AWARD PUNITIVE DAMAGES OR ATTORNEYS' FEES UNLESS SUCH

DAMAGES OR FEES ARE EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY A STATUTE. YOU AND GMLD BOTH WAIVE ANY CLAIMS FOR AN AWARD OF DAMAGES THAT ARE EXCLUDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

#### b. Arbitration Information and Filing Procedures.

Before you take a dispute to arbitration or to small claims court, you must first contact our customer account representatives at the customer service number on your GMLDS bill for the Services, or write to us at GMLDS, P.O. Box 9, Waitsfield, VT 05673, and give us an opportunity to resolve the dispute. Similarly, before GMLDS takes a dispute to arbitration, we must first attempt to resolve it by contacting you. If the dispute cannot be satisfactorily resolved within sixty days from the date you or GMLDS is notified by the other of a dispute, then either party may then contact the AAA in writing at AAA Service Center, 134555 Noel Road, Suite 1750, Dallas, Texas 75240-6620 and request arbitration of the dispute. Information about the arbitration process and the AAA's Arbitration Rules and its fees are available from the AAA on the Internet at [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org), or by contacting us at 1-800-496-3391. The arbitration will be based only on the written submissions of the parties and the documents submitted to the AAA relating to the dispute, unless either party requests that the arbitration be conducted using the AAA's telephonic, on-line, or in-person procedures. Additional charges may apply for these procedures. Any in-person arbitration will be conducted at a location that the AAA selects in the state of your primary residence. Arbitrations under this Agreement shall be confidential as permitted by federal law. By notifying GMLDS within twenty days after commencing an arbitration proceeding, you may elect to relieve both parties to the arbitration of confidentiality obligations.

**c. Fees and Expenses of Arbitration.** You must pay the applicable AAA filing fee when you submit your written request for arbitration to the AAA. The AAA's filing fee and administrative expenses for a document arbitration will be allocated according to the AAA's Rules, except as stated herein, for claims of less than \$10,000, you will only be obligated to pay a filing fee of \$20 and we will pay all of the AAA's other costs and fees. For claims between \$10,000 and \$75,000, you will pay a fee to the AAA of no more than \$375, and we will pay all of the AAA's other costs and fees. If you elect an arbitration process other than a document ("desk") or telephone arbitration, you must pay your allocated share of any higher administrative fees and costs for the process you select. If you request such an alternative process, or for claims of \$10,000 or greater, GMLDS will also consider, upon receiving your request and on a case-by-case basis, paying some or all of the AAA's fees and expenses that you would otherwise be allocated under the AAA's rules. You also may ask the AAA about the availability of a pro bono arbitrator and/or a waiver or deferment of fees and expenses from the AAA; more information about the AAA's rules and

policies is available at the AAA's website, which is [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org). Unless applicable substantive law provides otherwise, each party will pay its own expenses to participate in the arbitration, including attorneys' fees and expenses for witnesses, document production and presentation of evidence. If you prevail before the arbitrator, however, you may seek to recover the AAA's fees and the expenses of the arbitrator from us. If we prevail before the arbitrator, and if we show that you acted in bad faith in bringing your claim, then we may seek to recover the AAA's fees and expenses of the arbitrator from you.

## 8. Miscellaneous.

- a. **No Third Party Rights.** This Agreement does not provide any third party with a remedy, claim, or right of reimbursement.
- b. **Acts Beyond Our Control.** Neither you nor we will be responsible to the other for any delay, failure in performance, loss or damage due to fire, explosion, power blackout, earthquake, volcanic action, flood, the weather elements, strike, embargo, labor disputes, civil or military authority, war, acts of God, acts or omissions of carriers or suppliers, acts of regulatory or governmental agencies, or other causes beyond our reasonable control, except that you must pay for any Services used.
- c. **Assignment.** We can assign all or part of our rights or duties under this Agreement without notifying you. If we do that, we have no further obligations to you. You may not assign this Agreement or the Services without our prior written consent.
- d. **Notices.** Notices from you to GMLDS must be provided as specified in this Agreement. Notice from you to GMLDS made by calling GMLDS is effective as of the date that our records show that we received your call.

GMLDS' notice to you under this Agreement will be provided by one or more of the following: posting on our website, recorded announcement, bill message, bill insert, newspaper ad, postcard, letter, call to your billed telephone number, or e-mail to an address provided by you.

- e. **Separability.** If any part of this Agreement is found invalid, the rest of the Agreement will remain valid and enforceable.
- f. **Governing Law.** This Agreement is governed by the Federal Communications Act to the full extent applicable, and otherwise by the law of the State of Vermont, without regard to its choice of law rules. The arbitration provisions in Section 7 are also governed by the Federal Arbitration Act. This governing law provision applies no matter where you reside, or where you use or pay for the Services.

- g. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement (which incorporates by reference the GMLDS website) constitutes the entire agreement between us and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, statements or proposals, and representations, whether written or oral. This Agreement can be amended only as provided in Section 9 below. No written or oral statement, advertisement, or service description not expressly contained in the Agreement will be allowed to contradict, explain, or supplement it. Neither you nor GMLDS is relying on any representations or statements by the other party or any other person that are not included in this Agreement.

## 9. Changes to this Agreement.

This Agreement may only be changed in the manner provided for in this Section 9. We may change this Agreement, including the incorporated GMLDS website, from time to time. If we make any changes to the prices or charges, we will comply with our notice commitments described in Section 1 of this Agreement. With respect to all other changes to this Agreement, we will notify you of the changes, and they will be effective no sooner than fifteen days after we post them at [www.wcvt.com](http://www.wcvt.com). You may also request a copy of the revised Agreement, including revised GMLDS website for the services you are enrolled in, by calling GMLDS toll free at 1-800-496-3391.

**IF YOU CONTINUE TO BE ENROLLED IN, USE, OR PAY FOR THE SERVICES AFTER ANY CHANGES IN THE PRICES, CHARGES, TERMS OR CONDITIONS, YOU AGREE TO THE CHANGES.**

## 10. Enrollment In Another GMLDS Service

To enroll in an additional Service, or to switch from your existing Service to a different Service, you must notify us by: (1) returning an enrollment form provided in GMLDS marketing materials; (2) calling the GMLDS customer service number on your GMLDS bill; (3) calling the GMLDS customer service number provided in GMLDS marketing materials; or (4) going to our website at [www.wcvt.com](http://www.wcvt.com) and following any further instructions provided for enrollment. The terms and conditions of this Agreement, including those in the incorporated GMLDS Service Guides, will apply to the new or additional GMLDS Service.

**BY ENROLLING IN, USING, OR PAYING FOR THESE NEW OR ADDITIONAL SERVICES, YOU AGREE TO THE PRICES, CHARGES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN THIS AGREEMENT.**

[9/29/03]