



Contact:: Deborah Flannagan  
Phone: 404-656-2141  
[www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us)

## Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington St S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Phone: 404-656-4501  
Toll free: 1-800-282-5813  
(outside metro Atlanta)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**18-07**

### NEWS RELEASE

#### **PSC Adopts Consent Agreement With Columbus Local Communications To Settle Complaints About Payment For Telephone Service**

ATLANTA, May 1, 2007 – Today, the Georgia Public Service Commission (Commission) adopted a Consent Agreement between the Commission's Staff and Columbus Local Communications (Columbus Local), requiring the company to reimburse customers and pay a penalty.

In January 2007, the Commission received numerous complaints regarding Columbus Catalog Sales dba Columbus Local Communications, a local exchange carrier authorized to provide telephone service in Georgia. The company previously operated under two other names, "PhoneMart" and "OmniTel." Consumers alleged that they paid for phone service that was not received. Citing these complaints, and other alleged violations of Commission rules and orders, the Commission issued a Rule Nisi against Columbus Local on February 13, 2007.

On March 22, 2007, the Commission Staff entered into a Consent Agreement with Columbus Local to resolve this matter. The Consent Agreement requires Columbus Local to: 1) reimburse the consumers who filed complaints with the Commission; 2) pay \$10,000 in penalties to the State Treasury; and, 3) surrender its certificate of authority to provide local exchange service.

On May 1, 2007, the Commissioners voted to adopt this Consent Agreement. You can find more information on this case on the PSC website [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) by doing a search for Docket No. 15318.

Any consumer who paid Columbus Local for telephone service, but was disconnected prior to receiving that service, should file a complaint with the Commission. The PSC's Consumer Affairs Staff will help customers get a refund for the amount paid for phone service not received. Consumers can contact the Georgia Public Service Commission by e-mail, fax, telephone or letter, as listed below.

E-mail: [gapscc@psc.state.ga.us](mailto:gapscc@psc.state.ga.us)  
Fax: 404-656-2341  
Telephone: 404-656-4501 (metro Atlanta) or  
1-800-282-5813 (outside metro Atlanta)  
Mail: Georgia Public Service Commission  
Consumer Affairs  
244 Washington St. S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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