

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 95 TO INCLUDE  
ENFORCEMENT OF KARI'S LAW**

**WHEREAS**, Calvert County strives to protect the health and safety of County residents and visitors to the County and recognizes that "911" is the United States' universal emergency assistance line;

**WHEREAS**, many telephone systems for hotels, motels, schools, and businesses require that a user dial an additional number to obtain an outside line;

**WHEREAS**, persons unfamiliar with such a telephone system will be unable to reach emergency services in a crisis, which can lead to disastrous results;

**WHEREAS**, experts on multi-line telephone systems state that direct dial 9-1-1 service can be provided in most systems through updating of software;

**WHEREAS**, Calvert County shall take steps to ensure that any multiple-line telephone system that is accessible to the general public must allow for direct dialing of 9-1-1 to protect the health and safety of all parties;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1-314 of the *Public Safety Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code provides that local jurisdictions take measures to enforce the requirement for direct dial of 9-1-1;

**WHEREAS**, it has been recommended to the Board of County Commissioners that Calvert County take such measures to enforce the requirement for direct dial of 9-1-1 within a new Title of Chapter 95 of the Calvert County Code (the "Code") as prescribed herein;

**WHEREAS**, notice of a public hearing was duly advertised for two consecutive weeks before the public hearing held on March 26, 2024, at which time the Board of County Commissioners received public comment; and

**WHEREAS**, upon due consideration of the comments of the public and staff, the Board of County Commissioners finds it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Calvert County, Maryland to enact and adopt the additions to Chapter 95 of the Calvert County Code as prescribed herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland hereby does find that this Ordinance is necessary for the protection of public safety to enact and adopt the additions to Chapter 95 of the Calvert County Code as follows:

(1) To Chapter 95 of the Calvert County Code, Article I, §95-1 Definitions, append the following:

**MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

Shall have the meaning set forth in §1-314(a) of the *Public Safety Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code, as amended from time to time, and means a system that:

1. consists of common control units, telephone sets, control hardware and software, and adjunct systems, including network and premises-based systems; and
2. is designed to aggregate more than one incoming voice communication channel for use by more than one telephone.

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**PERSON**

Shall have the meaning set forth in Section 1-101 of the *Public Safety Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code, as amended from time to time, and shall mean an individual, receiver, trustee, guardian, personal representative, fiduciary, representative of any kind, partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other entity.

(2) To Chapter 95 of the Calvert County Code, add the following, new Article III:

**ARTICLE III. KARI'S LAW****§95-9. PURPOSE; APPLICABILITY.**

1. In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, the purpose of this Article is to ensure that any person using a multiple-line telephone system can direct dial 9-1-1 without having to dial another number first.
2. This Article applies to any person who installs or operates a multiple-line telephone system.

**§95-10. REQUIREMENTS, AUTHORITY TO INSPECT.**

1. Pursuant to §1-314 of the *Public Safety Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code, a person who installs or operates a multiple-line telephone system shall ensure that the system is connected to the public switched telephone network in such a way that when an individual using the system dials 9-1-1, the call connects to the public safety answering point without requiring the user to dial any other number or set of numbers.
2. The Calvert County Department of Public Safety is designated the power to enforce this Article, and may coordinate with other County departments, State agencies and officials, public entities, or private vendors, to execute 9-1-1 access verification testing of multiple-line telephone systems to ensure compliance with this chapter.

**§95-11. FINES.**

1. Any person who violates this Article is subject to a fine of \$100 for their first offense, and a fine of \$200 for their second and each subsequent offense.
2. Each day the violation exists is a separate offense.
3. No fines shall be imposed prior to June 24, 2024.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that, in the event any portion of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, null or void, by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to sever only the invalid portion or provision, and that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be enforceable and valid, unless deletion of the invalid portion would defeat the clear purpose of the Ordinance, or unless deletion of the valid portion would produce a result inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the Board of County Commissioners in enacting this Ordinance.

BK0073PG0384

Ordinance No. 06-24

Re: Amending Chapter 95 to include enforcement of Kari's Law

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated and adopted as if fully set forth herein.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that this Ordinance shall be effective upon recordation and publication of a fair summary.

**DONE**, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, sitting in regular session.

Aye: 5  
Nay: 0  
Absent/Abstain: 0

**ATTEST:**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Katie Brittain  
Katie Brittain, Clerk

Earl F. Hance  
Earl F. Hance, President

Catherine M. Grasso  
Catherine M. Grasso, Vice-President

Approved for form and legal  
sufficiency:

Mark C. Cox Sr.  
Mark C. Cox Sr.

John B. Norris, III  
John B. Norris, III, County Attorney

Mike Hart  
Mike Hart

Todd Ireland  
Todd Ireland

Received for Record.....3/27....., 2024  
at.....11:27.....o'clock.....A.....M. Same day  
recorded in Liber KPS No. 73  
Folio.....382-384.....COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.

Garry P. Smith