

Kari's Law – Ensuring Direct Access to Emergency Services

1. Introduction:

Kari's Law is a critical piece of legislation aimed at ensuring that individuals can directly access emergency services without any hindrance, such as having to dial a prefix or access code. Named after Kari Hunt, whose tragic situation highlighted the need for direct access to emergency services, this law mandates that all businesses, schools, and organizations must provide direct dialing access to 911 emergency services without the requirement of dialing any additional digits or codes.

2. Key Provisions:

a. **Direct Access to 911:** Kari's Law mandates that all telephones within an organization's premises, including multi-line telephone systems (MLTS), must be configured to allow direct dialing to 911 without the need for an initial prefix, code, or any other additional digit. This provision ensures that anyone, including employees, visitors, or guests, can easily connect with emergency services during a crisis.

b. **On-Site Notification:** In addition to allowing direct dialing, Kari's Law requires organizations to provide on-site notification to a central location within the facility when a 911 call is made. This notification ensures that appropriate personnel within the organization are aware of the emergency situation and can respond promptly to assist emergency responders if necessary.

c. **Compliance and Regular Testing:** Organizations are obligated to ensure compliance with Kari's Law by configuring their phone systems accordingly. Regular testing and maintenance of the emergency dialing systems are also required to guarantee

that direct access to 911 is consistently available and operational.

3. Implementation and Compliance:

To comply with Kari's Law, organizations must take the following steps:

a. **Configure Phone Systems:** Ensure that all phone systems, including MLTS, are configured to allow direct dialing to 911 without any additional digits or codes.

b. **Provide On-Site Notification:** Establish protocols and systems to notify appropriate personnel within the organization when a 911 call is made, enabling a swift and coordinated response to emergencies.

c. **Training and Awareness:** Educate employees, visitors, and guests about the direct access to 911 and the importance of using it responsibly. Conduct regular training sessions to raise awareness about emergency procedures and the availability of direct emergency dialing.

d. **Regular Testing:** Conduct routine tests of the emergency dialing systems to ensure they are functioning correctly. Address any issues promptly to maintain compliance with Kari's Law.

4. Conclusion:

Kari's Law is essential for the safety and well-being of individuals within various establishments. By ensuring direct access to 911 services and implementing on-site notifications, organizations can significantly enhance their emergency response capabilities. Compliance with this law is not only a legal requirement but also a moral obligation to protect lives and provide a swift response during critical situations, thereby contributing to the overall safety of communities. if you would like to learn more about Kari's Law please follow

the

link.

<https://www.911.gov/issues/legislation-and-policy/kari-s-law-and-ray-baum-s-act/>