

# **STIR/SHAKEN: What is it and why does it matter?**

## **What is STIR/SHAKEN?**

STIR/SHAKEN is a technology framework designed to reduce fraudulent robocalls and illegal phone number spoofing. STIR stands for Secure Telephony Identity Revisited. SHAKEN stands for Secure Handling of Asserted information using tokens.

The FCC has adopted rules requiring service providers like Fireline Communications to deploy a STIR/SHAKEN solution by June 30, 2021.

## **What's the difference between STIR and SHAKEN?**

STIR is a working group within the IETF, an internet standards body, which has developed a set of protocols used to create a digital signature for a call. The signed call includes information about the calling party and allows for verification of the signature by the terminating provider.

SHAKEN are the standards for how STIR is to be deployed by service providers within their networks.

## **Why is STIR/SHAKEN so important?**

Between 3 and 5 billion robocalls are made each month, and research suggests that more than 40% of those calls are thought to be fraud-related.

STIR/SHAKEN is an industry-wide initiative to restore trust in our voice communications. Its goal is to prevent fraudsters from scamming consumers and businesses through robocalls and illegal phone number spoofing, while making sure that

legitimate calls reach the recipient.