

## FCC ADDRESSES ISSUE OF INTERNET TRS FRAUD

Washington, DC -- The FCC has opened a proceeding requesting comment on ways to curtail the abuse of the two Internet-based forms of Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) -- Internet Protocol (IP) Relay Service and Video Relay Service (VRS). Such misuse includes using IP Relay to make telephone purchases from merchants using stolen, fake, or otherwise invalid credit cards, and improperly using VRS as a substitute for in-person interpreters or commercial Video Remote Interpreting Services. Such improper use of TRS results in improper compensation from the Interstate TRS Fund and may make merchants reluctant to accept legitimate TRS calls from persons who have hearing or speech disabilities.

Although calls that reach relay centers via the Internet contain no calling party number or location information, TRS providers and their employees who process IP Relay calls can often identify calls that seek to use relay to defraud merchants. The Commission asked for comments on steps it might take to prevent this misuse, including modifying some of the rules that apply to the provision of these services so that relay providers can prevent or terminate these calls.

Action by the Commission May 3, 2006, by Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 06-58). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein and Tate.

For information on comment on this proceeding, please go to [http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/ecfs\\_alt.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/ecfs_alt.html)