

**THE MICHIGAN PENAL CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 328 of 1931**

**750.540a Party line, emergency, defined; refusal to yield or surrender use of line; pretext; penalty.**

Sec. 540a.

"Party line" as used in this section means a subscribers' line telephone circuit, consisting of 2 or more main telephone stations connected therewith, each station with a distinctive ring or telephone number. "Emergency" as used in this section means a situation in which property or human life are in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential.

Any person who shall wilfully refuse to yield or surrender the use of a party line to another person for the purpose of permitting such other person to report a fire or summon police, medical or other aid in case of emergency, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Any person who shall ask for or request the use of a party line on pretext that an emergency exists, knowing that no emergency in fact exists, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** Add. 1952, Act 56, Eff. Sept. 18, 1952