

Informed Consent Agreement for the Installation of Small Cell Towers in Your Residential Community

If a telecommunications company could NOT install small cell towers in a residential community in Montgomery County, MD without the informed consent of the residents of that community, and if the informed-consent agreement was an honest one, it might look something like this:

Dear Resident,

Will you grant permission for my telecommunications company to erect small cell towers in your residential community, including, possibly, one tower in front of your home?

As currently planned, these towers will be taller than your current street lights by 5 feet to 10 feet, up to a maximum height of 45 feet, depending on the width of your road. The determining factor on the height is the technical ability of the tower to communicate with both sides of the road, not your wishes. The diameters of the towers will be larger than the poles of your current street lights to support the greater weight of the towers and their cellular equipment. That equipment may be hung on the outside of the towers or placed inside the towers with the larger diameters. Each tower may have more than one antenna at its top, to point in many directions. The fate of your trees is unclear at present since the towers may be taller than some of your trees or may rise into others. Once the towers have been installed, you will not be able to have them removed. You will have no say about the cellular service providers that use these towers, or about what equipment they install within, or outside of, the towers.

Each tower will emit radiofrequency radiation, specifically microwave and millimeter-wave radiation, 24 hours a day, every day, forever. That radiation is designed to penetrate into every room in your home. That radiation will strike you, everyone in your home, and all of your neighbors for several hundreds of feet around.

Radiofrequency radiation has been linked, by thousands of international biomedical research studies, to a broad range of health consequences. Some examples are sleep disruption; headaches; ringing in the ears; fatigue; loss of concentration, memory, or learning ability; and disorientation, dizziness, or loss of balance. Most recently, a huge study by the National Institutes of Health confirmed a link between radiofrequency radiation used for cellular communications and two forms of malignant cancer: brain cancer, which is usually fatal; and nerve cancer, which can be fatal.

Everyone is vulnerable to harm from radiofrequency radiation, including pregnant women and their unborn children, babies, teenagers, adults, seniors, the chronically ill, and the disabled. No consideration will be given to which of these individuals is present in your community, or to where the small cell towers are located relative to them. Nor will any effort be made to track any health problems that may surface in your community after the installation of the small cell towers. While medical organizations, like the National Institutes of Health, cannot expose humans to toxins, like radiofrequency radiation, without a thorough ethics review, no similar prohibition exists for telecommunications companies.

In return for your willingness to incur this risk, you will receive the opportunity to purchase a wireless method for connecting to communications services, such as Internet, telephone, and television services. If

you already have a wired connection to such services through a cable technology, like coaxial cable or optical fiber cable, the new wireless service can replace your existing cable service. Of course, your existing cable service may be safer, faster, more reliable, more cyber secure, more energy efficient, less expensive, and less visually intrusive than the new wireless service provided by our small cell towers. But the new wireless service will offer you mobility, even if mobility is not terribly useful for services provided at home in a residential community like yours.

If you are harmed by the radiation from the new small cell towers, we, as the providers of that radiation, will do everything in our power to deflect liability for harming you. You will have a difficult time proving that our radiation did harm you, even if it has, because the symptoms of such harm are highly varied and differ from individual to individual. Also, you will undoubtedly be exposed to radiation from other sources, too; so it will be hard for you to prove that it was our radiation that was at fault. We may also try to deflect responsibility to others, perhaps even to government agencies, and to the government officials who approved our locating small cell towers in your community.

If you try to get insurance protection against any harm to your health from the radiation, you may be turned down because the underwriters of insurance are increasingly aware of the health risks of radiofrequency radiation and may not be willing to back the insurance carriers.

If you try to get medical care for any harm that the radiation has caused you, you will find that the medical profession is not yet trained to address this type of harm. As a result, the profession may have no remedies for you, except for the removal of the small cell towers from your community, which we will not do. Even if you move to avoid the radiation, you may find that the harm done to you may not be fully reversible. And, when you do move, you may find that the value of your home is less than you expected. Newcomers may prefer streets lined with trees to streets lined with small cell towers.

Given these circumstances, we are grateful to you for volunteering yourself and your family for exposure to the radiofrequency radiation from our small cell towers. And we are especially grateful that you agree to permit us to place one of our small cell towers in front of your home, if we so choose. Your approval will enable us to accelerate the dissemination of our wireless technology before the public's awareness of the adverse health effects of radiofrequency radiation spreads further. We can thus gain a foothold in your community that cannot be easily dislodged, and we can do so without the delays that would be caused by requirements for prior testing for safety.

We hope you will enjoy the wireless service provided by the new small cell towers in your community.

Please sign here to give us your approval to install.

Signature