

You may have to add an area code to dial out

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USA TODAY

Seven-digit dialing is out, 10-digit dialing is in.

As of Sunday, callers in 82 area codes across 35 states and one U.S. territory now are required to use their three-digit area code before punching in the seven-digit phone number when calling a local number, the Federal Communications Commission says.

Current phone numbers won't change, but phone calls dialed without the area code after the October deadline won't be connected.

Some area codes use 988 as a local exchange, or the first three numbers in a seven-digit phone number that allow for local calling without the area code. Requiring the three-digit area code for local calls will make way for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's new nationwide three-digit phone number, 988. The number will be active by July 16, 2022.