



Overview of the Enhanced ENT Rules and Progress To Date

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Commission's Closed Captioning Quality Requirements

- **Accuracy:** Captions must reflect the dialogue and other sounds and music in the audio track to the fullest extent possible based on the type of the programming, and must identify the speakers.
- **Synchronicity:** Captions must be synchronous with their corresponding dialogue and other sounds to the fullest extent possible based on the type of the programming, and must appear at a speed that can be read by viewers.
- **Program Completeness:** Captions must run from the beginning to the end of the program, to the fullest extent possible, based on the type of the programming.
- **Placement:** Captions may not cover up other important on-screen information, such as character faces, featured text, graphics, or other information essential to the understanding or accessing of a program's content, and other information may not cover up captions.



Types of Programming

- **Pre-recorded Programming:** Compliance with quality requirements expected.
- **Live Programming:** FCC will consider the challenges (e.g., lack of an opportunity to review captions), but expects captioning to be sufficiently accurate, synchronous, complete, and appropriately placed to allow a viewer who depends on captioning to understand the program and have a viewing experience that is comparable to someone listening to the sound track.
- **Near-Live Programming:** Programming that is performed and recorded within 24 hours prior to when it is first aired on television will be evaluated under the same standards applied to live programming, although we encourage measures that can be taken prior to the program's airing to improve its captioning quality (e.g., delivery of material in advance to captioner)



Access to Local News

- **Real-time captioning required on major news programs** if shown by:
 - major national broadcast television networks (i.e., ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC);
 - affiliates of these networks in the top 25 television markets as defined by Nielsen's Designated Market Areas; and
 - national nonbroadcast networks serving at least 50% of all homes subscribing to multichannel video programming services.
- **All other local newscasts may use the "Electronic Newsroom Technique (ENT)"** – using a teleprompter to caption, but often lacks captions for live sports, weather and most late-breaking news.



“Enhanced” ENT Rules as of June 2014

- Covered stations must script the following programming:
 - In-studio produced news, sports, weather, and entertainment programming;
 - Weather interstitials (not required to precisely track the words used on air); and
 - Pre-produced programming (to the extent technically feasible).
- If live interviews , live on-the-scene, or breaking news segments are not scripted, covered stations will supplement them with crawls, textual information, or other means (to the extent technically feasible).
- Covered stations will provide training to all news staff on scripting for improving ENT, and appoint an “ENT Coordinator” accountable for compliance.



Progress to Date

- Commission was required to assess effectiveness of “enhanced” requirements and need for real-time captioning in 2015, one year after the effective date of new ENT rules.
- ENT Captioning Progress Report and Reply filed in late 2015. (Visit: www.fcc.gov/ecfs, CG Docket No. 05-231.)
- Joint stakeholders meeting on February 5, 2016.
- Next steps: Continued stakeholder collaboration.



Your Resources

- Visit FCC Disability Rights Office webpage: www.fcc.gov/accessibility.
- Event page: <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/05/forum-captioning-local-news-programs>.
- Contact FCC DRO at:
 - DRO@fcc.gov (e-mail)
 - 844-432-2275 (videophone)
 - 202-418-2517 (voice)
 - 888-835-5322 (TTY)
- Online Complaint Form: www.fcc.gov/complaints.
- Subscribe to AccessInfo@fcc.gov.

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