# HOW UNLOCKING

Your Phone Is 100% LEGAL



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### **How Unlocking Your Phone Is 100% Legal**

There are multiple benefits associated with unlocking your cell phone.

First off, unlocked phones are not bound to a specific carrier, and can be freely used on all networks the device is compatible with, simply by swapping out the SIM card.

Secondly, unlocking your phone allows it to work worldwide, meaning that, when traveling to a different country, you can use the device to connect to a local network and avoid high roaming fees.

Lastly, an unlocked phone has increased resell value and marketability simply because of the fact that the resell is not restricted to a specific carrier.

Now, when it comes to cell phone unlocking, the question everyone wants to know the answer to is: "Is it legal?"

Not only is unlocking your phone 100% legal, it's a logical course of action.

In this report, we are going to over the legal aspects of unlocking your cell phone.

#### Was it always legal to unlock your phone?

Unlocking cell phones is directly regulated by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), and up until 2006, the answer to this question was "No". However, the Congress Library reviews the DMCA every three years, and has the jurisdiction to make exemptions allowed under the law.



In 2006, the Library reached a conclusion that unlocking a cell phone does not infringe on the copyright of the phone manufacturer or service provider, and therefore should not be prohibited. That is how phone unlocking first became legal.

This decision was short-lived, due to the fact that in October 2012, the Library decided not to renew the exemption. The official statement, which served to justify this course of action, was that unlocking a phone required making changes to the software that is copyrighted and owned by the carrier – which was interpreted as a violation of the DMCA.

## What made them decide to finally change the rule?

There were a number of reasons which ultimately led the Library to the conclusion that allowing unlocking of cell phones was no longer a necessary exemption.

The primary reason is the fact that there was an increasing number of phones which one could buy, that already came unlocked.

At the time, Apple sold the iPhone 5S unlocked. You could also get Google's Nexus 5, which came unlocked, and retailers like BestBuy offered all sorts of unlocked phones.

Due to this fact, the Library concluded that there was no reason to allow users to unlock their phones, since everyone could just as easily buy an unlocked phone.



#### How come phone unlocking is legal again?

The new law concerning phone unlocking came about a bit differently than most people expected. It actually started out as a petition created by digital rights activists on the White House's website "We The People".

The importance of this issue was highlighted by the fact that over 114,000 people signed the petition, prompting the Federal Communications Commission to work together with the Congress, carriers and the government, and come up with an appropriate solution.

This resulted in the creation of the "Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act", which was signed into law by the president Barack Obama on August 1st, 2015.

Once again, it became legal for people to unlock their cell phones and choose the carrier which best suits their needs.

The rules and regulations provided by this new law still apply, and it's very unlikely that they will change in the future.

Although laws tend to differ from country to country, unlocking your phone is completely legal in most countries around the world. The only thing that might be different is the time that's required to pass, before a certain carrier becomes obliged to unlock their customer's cell phones.



### **Conclusion**

We already went over the benefits of unlocking your phone, and now that you are certain that it is 100% legal, all that's left is to actually have it unlocked.

But, having your carrier unlock it is not as simple and straightforward as you might think.

For example, some carriers require you to either pay off the full contract, or wait for the 1 or 2-year contract to expire, before unlocking your phone.

The good news is, there is an easier and much faster way to get your phone unlocked, without going through your carrier.

You can join millions of other satisfied phone users at <u>UnlockBase</u>. <u>com</u> that have already unlocked their phones and are enjoying the freedom to switch to any network, whenever they choose.

# UNLOCK YOUR CELL PHONE AND UNLEASH ITS TRUE POWER

Switch freely between service providers, forget about roaming charges and increase your phone's market and resell value.

**UNLOCK MY PHONE**