



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 20 - FRAUDS

N.C.G.S. § 14-118.5.

Theft of cable television service.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c) — fourth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 05:40 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 2566940f4bce85053c9f7baa - 66ab2de3250a021bbe917348 - f0b127ce504c9c89
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- § 14-118.5(a)

Any person, firm or corporation who, after October 1, 1984, knowingly and willfully attaches or maintains an electronic, mechanical or other connection to any cable, wire, decoder, converter, device or equipment of a cable television system or removes, tampers with, modifies or alters any cable, wire, decoder, converter, device or equipment of a cable television system for the purpose of intercepting or receiving any programming or service transmitted by such cable television system which person, firm or corporation is not authorized by the cable television system to receive, is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor which may include a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Each unauthorized connection, attachment, removal, modification or alteration shall constitute a separate violation.
- § 14-118.5(b)

Any person, firm or corporation who knowingly and willfully, without the authorization of a cable television system, distributes, sells, attempts to sell or possesses for sale in North Carolina any converter, decoder, device, or kit, that is designed to decode or descramble any encoded or scrambled signal transmitted by such cable television system, is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor which may include a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The term "encoded or scrambled signal" shall include any signal or transmission that is not intended to produce an intelligible program or service without the aid of a decoder, descrambler, filter, trap or other electronic or mechanical device.
- § 14-118.5(c)

Any cable television system may institute a civil action to enjoin and restrain any violation of this section, and in addition, such cable television system shall be entitled to civil damages in the following amounts:

- (1) For each violation of subsection (a), three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or three times the amount of actual damages, if any, sustained by the plaintiff, whichever amount is greater.
- (2) For each violation of subsection (b), one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or three times the amount of actual damages, if any, sustained by the plaintiff, whichever amount is greater.

§ 14-118.5(d)

It is not a necessary prerequisite to a civil action instituted pursuant to this section that the plaintiff has suffered or will suffer actual damages.

§ 14-118.5(e)

PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE

Proof that any equipment, cable, wire, decoder, converter or device of a cable television system was modified, removed, altered, tampered with or connected without the consent of such cable system in violation of this section shall be prima facie evidence that such action was taken knowingly and willfully by the person or persons in whose name the cable system's equipment, cable, wire, decoder, converter or device is installed or the person or persons regularly receiving the benefits of cable services resulting from such unauthorized modification, removal, alteration, tampering or connection.

§ 14-118.5(f)

The receipt, decoding or converting of a signal from the air by the use of a satellite dish or antenna shall not constitute a violation of this section.

§ 14-118.5(g)

Cable television systems may refuse to provide service to anyone who violates subsection (a) of this section whether or not the alleged violator has been prosecuted thereunder.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
4 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.

1977		1986		1994	
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR		DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT			
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER		

01	1977	2nd Sess., c. 1185, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1977	1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1088, s. 1	AMENDED
03	1993	c. 539, s. 65	AMENDED
04	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)	AMENDED

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-118.5 (1994).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-118.5(a) (1994).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE
(1977, 2nd Sess., c. 1185, s. 1; 1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1088, s. 1; 1993, c. 539, s. 65; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

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