



## The Clara Abbott Foundation

### **Fees, taxes drive up cell phone bills**

Thinking about signing a new cell phone contract? Does the rate seem reasonable? Be wary, you might end up paying more than you bargained for. Why? Because cell phone contracts' advertised monthly bill rates are often figured without including taxes and fee, so you might end up paying a lot more than the 39.99 per month you agreed to. All told, taxes and fees can add about 20 percent to the monthly payment you will have to make. Make sure you ask specifically how much the monthly bill will be with fees, taxes and surcharges included before you sign up for anything. Most cell phone companies also have a fee for breaking a contract that can run around \$200.