Enabling Wi-Fi Calling on your Smartphone Tip Sheet

Have you ever desperately needed to make a voice call with your iPhone, but the cellular signal at your location was so poor that the call wouldn't go through?

The next time that happens, check to see if there's a Wi-Fi network available that you can access.

If so, you might be able to enable Wi-Fi Calling on your iPhone or Samsung and place your call over the Internet.

When you call someone using Wi-Fi Calling, the call is routed to your carrier's network over the Internet instead of through a cell tower. This gives you another potential option for placing an important voice call when there's no usable signal at your current location.

You will need access to a usable Wi-Fi network in order to use Wi-Fi Calling, but that'll be the only noticeable difference from when you make a call over your carrier's closest cell tower.

All of that being said, there are a few caveats that you need to be aware of if you'd like to give Wi-Fi Calling a try:

Wi-Fi calling must be supported by your telecommunications carrier in the country that you reside in.

Regardless of where you live, your chosen carrier might not support some iPhone models or iOS versions or Samsung and Android versions.

iPhone

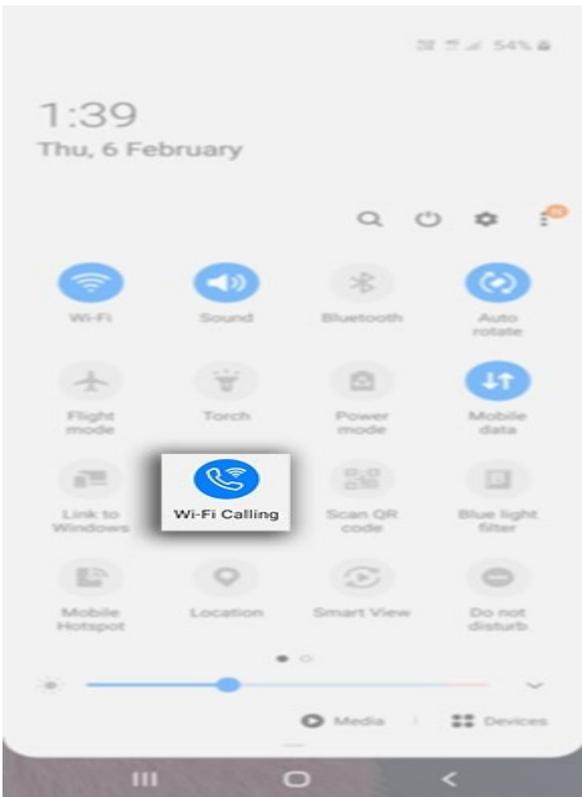If Wi-Fi calling is available to you, the steps listed below will enable it on your iPhone:

1. Your phone must be an iPhone 5C or later.

2. Tap the Settings icon (it looks like a "gear" or "cog").

3. Tap Phone.

4. Tap Wi-Fi Calling.
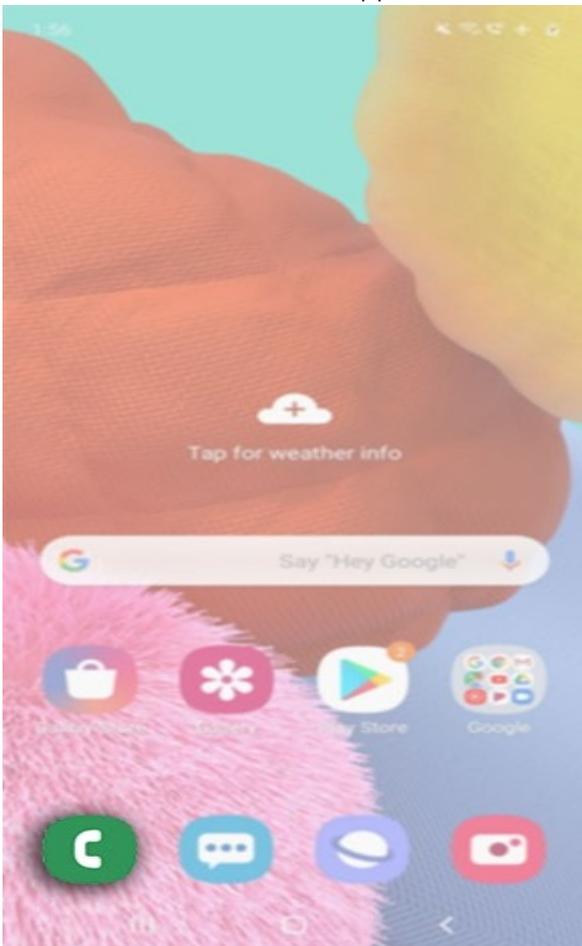
5. Tap Wi-Fi Calling on This…

You should now see a warning about the data your carrier will collect if you enable Wi-Fi Calling. If you agree to allow your carrier to collect this information, tap Enable to turn Wi-Fi Calling on.
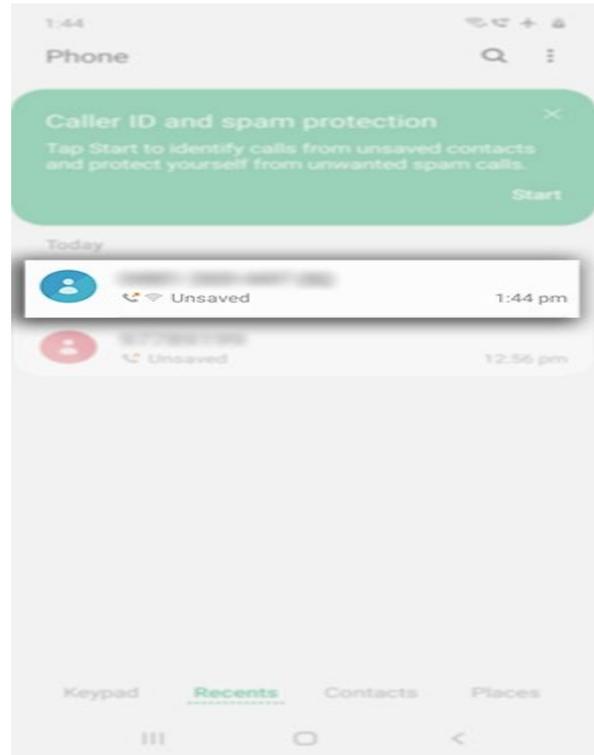
Samsung

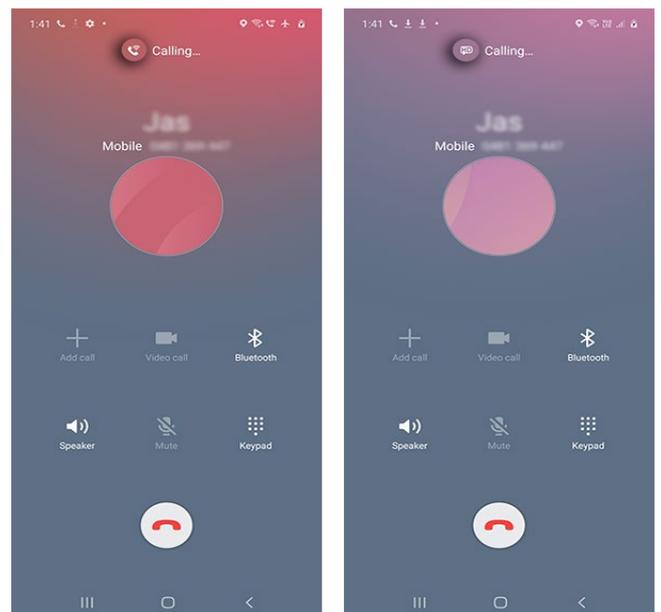1. Swipe down on the screen to access your Quick Settings and tap on Wi-Fi Calling to enable.

2. Launch the Phone app.

3. Select a contact to call

4. When Wi-Fi Calling is enabled, and a mobile network cannot be found you will notice appear above the contact you are calling. If a network has been found, you will be able to view

That's all there is to it. With Wi-Fi Calling enabled you'll be able to use any Wi-Fi network that you can legally (and safely) access to place a voice call when there's no usable cellular signal available to you.