

# Carefree CAREFREE CONNECTS MOBILE APP

FOR CAREFREE 12V MOTORIZED AWNINGS EQUIPPED WITH CAREFREE'S BT12 WIRELESS AWNING CONTROL SYSTEM



Read this manual before installing or using this product. Failure to follow the instructions and safety precautions in this manual can result in personal injury and/or cause the product to not operate properly.







070029-201r1 July, 2018

# **NOTICES AND DISCLAIMERS**

#### **TRADEMARKS**

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# STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE

BT12 Control Module
 BT Motion Sensor
 BT Remote

FCC and IC identification numbers are located on the exterior surfaces of the individual components.

#### **FCC COMPLIANCE**

These devices comply with Part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) These devices may not cause harmful interference and, (2) These devices must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

#### IC COMPLIANCE

These devices comply with Industry Canada license-exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) These devices may not cause harmful interference and, (2) These devices must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Ces appareils sont conformes aux normes RSS exonérées de licence d'Industrie Canada. L'opération est soumise aux deux conditions suivantes: (1) Ces appareils ne doivent pas causer d'interférences nuisibles et, (2) Ces appareils doivent accepter toute interférence reçue, y compris les interférences pouvant entraîner un fonctionnement indésirable.

#### FCC/IC RADIATION EXPOSURE STATEMENT

• BT12 Control Module • BT Motion Sensor

This equipment complies with FCC and IC radiation exposure limits for an uncontrolled environment. The minimum distance between the radiator and people is designed to be 20cm when installed and operated.

Cet équipement est conforme aux limites d'exposition aux radiations FCC et IC pour un environnement non contrôlé. La distance minimale entre le radiateur et les personnes est de 20cm lorsqu'installé et utilisé.

#### BT12 Remote

This equipment complies with FCC and IC radiation exposure limits for an uncontrolled environment. The minimum distance between the radiator and people is designed to be 5mm when operated.

Cet équipement est conforme aux limites d'exposition aux radiations FCC et IC pour un environnement non contrôlé. La distance minimale entre le radiateur et les personnes est de 5mm (à l'exclusion des extrémités: mains, poignets, pieds et chevilles) lors de l'utilisation.

# **DISCLAIMERS**

The BT12 Wireless Awning Control System and the Carefree Connects Mobile App are products of Carefree of Colorado, located in Broomfield, Colorado, USA. The information contained in or disclosed in this document is considered proprietary to Carefree of Colorado. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented in the document is accurate and complete. However, Carefree of Colorado assumes no liability for errors or for any damages that result from the use of this document.

The information contained in this manual pertains to the current components and software listed on the title page. Carefree of Colorado reserves the right to cancel, change, alter or add any parts and procedures, described in this manual, without prior notice.

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#### SERVICE AND SUPPORT



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# 1 Introduction

Carefree of Colorado strives to design high quality, versatile products that stand the test of time. We already offer a variety of customizable awnings to complement your RV, and now, with the Carefree BT12 Wireless Awning Control System you have complete control of your awnings.

The BT12 Wireless Control System offers several options to enhance your awning experience. OEM's may install these options as a standard offering or they can be added to your system at a later date. Contact your Carefree sales rep about these options.

The BT12 Wireless Awning Control System offers multiple methods of operating the awning, including standard switch operation, the Carefree Connects Mobile App, and the BT Remote.

# 2 COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

#### **BT Motion Sensor**



The optional BT Motion sensor detects awning motion caused by windy conditions. The system gauges the motion of the awning's front edge (roller tube or lead rail). When the motion exceeds the preset threshold, the system retracts the awning.

The factory default is set at "3" on a scale from 1 to 5. When using the mobile app, the sensitivity can be adjusted for personal preference.

#### **Control Switches**





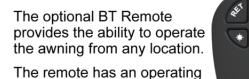
**Carefree Connects Mobile App** 

The app communicates directly with the Control Module.

#### Features:

- Real-time extension and retraction at the click of a button
- LED lighting control
- Adjust the rollback feature for LED positioning when the awning is extended (not available with box awnings)
- · Review awning status
- Name the awning(s)
- Adjust the motion sensitivity for wind retraction (when the optional BT Motion Sensor is installed).

BT012a



**BT Remote** 

range of approximately 30 feet.

**NOTE:** Illustrations in this manual shows the standard Carefree switches. Some OEM's may choose to furnish their own switches or incorporate the power and Extend/Retract controls in a multiplexing control system. The directions are valid for all configurations.

Introduction

#### 2.1 Additional System Features

#### 2.1.1 Ignition Lockout

The BT12 Control System provides two options for transportation safety using ignition lockout.

Standard - The system disables the extend function while the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position.

RTL – The system fully retracts the awning and disables the extend function when the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position.

Functions will return to normal operation when the ignition key is turned OFF.

Contact your vehicle dealer to find out if you have the ignition lockout option connected and which version is active in your vehicle.

#### 2.1.2 LED'S

White (monotone) LEDs are a popular option providing lighting beneath the awning. Factory installed LEDs are located on the leading edge (roller tube or lead rail) or can be mounted at the awning rail when present.

The BT12 Control System provides controls to allow you to set the lights to match your preference with ON/OFF and dimming controls through the app and/or the BT Remote.

To operate the White LED lights, you must have the awning lights power switch ON.

**NOTE:** Some OEMS may furnish their own switch that may appear differently than the switch pictured or may have the LED's operated through a multiplexing control center.

The factory default for the lights is full bright. When the light is adjusted with the BT Remote or the app, the system will remember the setting for the next time the lights are turned on.



# **3 GETTING STARTED**

Prior to downloading and using the Carefree Connects Mobile App, ensure you have your Carefree awning(s) are properly installed on your vehicle. Refer to your awning installation manual for additional details.

# 3.1 DOWNLOAD THE APP

The Carefree Connects Mobile App is downloadable to any device that supports:

- Current iOS or Android operating systems; and,
- Bluetooth low energy technology.

The Carefree Connects Mobile App is free to download from the App Store for Apple products or on Google Play for Android devices.





Download the app. When finished, close out of your app store. Locate the BT12 icon on your Home screen. Tap on the icon to launch the app.



#### 3.2 Pairing

To begin controlling your awnings with the mobile app, you must first:

- Ensure Bluetooth is turned ON in the settings page for your mobile device.
- Open pairing mode on your awning.
- Pair to your awning with the mobile app.

**NOTE:** Do not attempt to pair to the awning directly through your mobile device. Pairing must be done through the app.

#### 3.2.1 SET THE SYSTEM INTO PAIRING MODE

To put the system into pairing mode for the mobile app and/or additional peripherals that may be added (i.e. additional remotes), follow the directions below:

- 1. Turn power to the awning ON.
- 2. Extend the awning. Note that the awning does not have to be opened completely.
- Retract the awning.
- 4. When the awning is fully retracted, press and hold the retract switch for 3 seconds.
  - 4.1. The awning is now in pairing mode for 5 minutes.

Press and Hold the Retract Button for 3 Seconds After the Awning has Fully Retracted

BTA001b

5. The BT12 control module will automatically pair to the device then go to working mode.

#### NOTES:

- The module will pair to the physically closest unpaired device first. Repeat the pairing steps for each additional device (the module remembers the devices that have been paired).
  - Refer to the Carefree Connects Mobile App manual for setting up and pairing a smart device (such as a smart phone or tablet). The app manual is available at www.carefreeofcolorado.com/carefreeconnects.
- Multiple devices can be paired to the awning but only a maximum of 8 peripheral devices can be active at one time such as key FOBS and one (1) mobile device.
- Only one active BT Motion Sensor can be paired to the BT12 Control Module.
- Only one mobile device (smartphone or tablet) can be active at a time.

#### 3.2.2 PAIR YOUR MOBILE DEVICE TO YOUR AWNING

**NOTE:** If you have multiple devices to pair to your awning but wish to pair your mobile device first, ensure your mobile device is positioned closest to the awning prior to completing steps 1-5.

- 1. Upon launching the app, you will land on the home screen. Tap on the grid icon on the top left of your screen to enter the Awning Management screen.
- 2. Locate the awning you wish to claim in the Available Awnings section, and tap on its icon.





- 3. Tap the Add to My Awnings button in the pop- up window. The selected awning will move into the My Awnings section of the screen.
- 4. Your paired awning should now be located at the top of your home screen. Tap on the icon from either the My Awnings area of the Awning Management page or from the top of your home page to connect to it.



#### 3.2.3 PAIR A BT REMOTE TO YOUR AWNING

- 1. Ensure the physical power switch is turned ON prior to pairing your BT Remote, and that you are attempting to pair within the 5 minute open pairing window.
- 2. Position your BT Remote as close to the BT Control Module as possible.
- 3. It may take several seconds for the device to pair, but you can verify that pairing was successful by pressing the extend button on the remote. The awning should extend following the command.
  - You can verify the pairing by opening the Carefree Connects Mobile App and navigating to the Peripherals page. The remote will be listed under "Device Status" (refer to page 13).
- 4. Once paired, the awning will remember the BT Remote for future use.

Battery replacement is covered in the owner's manual for your awning equipped with the BT12 Wireless Awning Control System. Owner's manuals are available at www.carefreeofcolorado.com.

# 3.2.4 PAIR A BT MOTION SENSOR TO YOUR AWNING NOTES:

- Only 1 active motion sensor can be paired to the BT12 Control Module.
- Depending on the awning type, the BT Motion Sensor may or may not be visible on the outside of the
  product. You can use the mobile app to easily identify if you have the BT Motion Sensor. If the motion
  sensitivity slider on the settings page is not grayed out, then you have the BT Motion Sensor.

Location of the motion sensor is shown in the owner's manual for your awning equipped with the BT12 Wireless Awning Control System. Owner's manuals are available at www.carefreeofcolorado.com.

- 1. If not previously done, remove the motion sensor from the mounting bracket.
- 2. Turn the power switch to ON and extend the awning using the switches.
- 3. Place the awning in pairing mode (refer to page 4).
- 4. Remove the battery pull tab from the motion sensor.
- 5. Hold the motion sensor next to the control module for 2-3 seconds. The module should be paired.
- 6. To test, hold the sensor vertically with the Carefree logo upright, repeatedly move the sensor vertically up and down to simulate a brisk wind. The awning should retract.
  - You can verify the pairing by opening the Carefree Connects Mobile App and navigating to the Peripherals page. The motion sensor will be listed under "Device Status" (refer to page 13).
- 7. Snap the module in the sensor bracket.

Battery replacement is covered in the owner's manual for your awning equipped with the BT12 Wireless Awning Control System. Owner's manuals are available at www.carefreeofcolorado.com.

# 4 QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR AWNING OPERATION

**NOTE:** The physical awning switch must be in the ON position before the awning can operate.

# 4.1 EXTENDING YOUR AWNING

Once your device(s) have been paired to your awning, you can begin to operate your awning. The awning can be extended using the physical switch, the mobile app, or the BT Remote.



# 4.2 RETRACTING YOUR AWNING

**Awning Control Switches** 

If you wish to retract your awning, you can do so using the physical switch, mobile app, or the BT Again, the physical Remote. switch must be in the ON position before the awning can operate.



# 4.3 CONTROLLING YOUR AWNING LED LIGHTS

Turn the awning lighting switch "ON".

**NOTE:** The physical switch must be in the ON position.



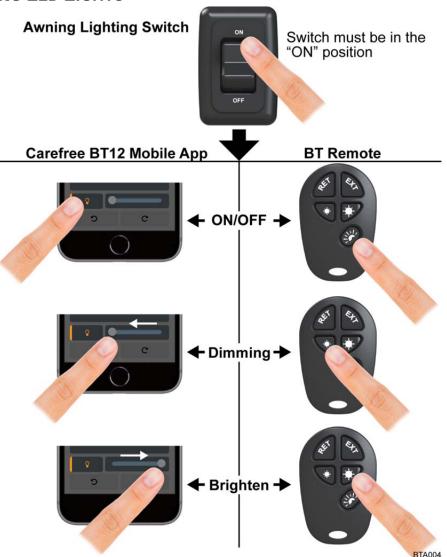
If the lighting switch is off, a popup will appear on the home screen when you try to turn the lights on.

Turn the lights on or off by tapping the light bulb icon on the app. or

On the BT Remote press the bottom button with the sun symbol.

The awning LED lights must be powered ON for the LED dimmer to function. Using the mobile app, you can slide the LED slider to the left to dim the LED lights, or to the right to brighten them.

To dim the LED lights using the BT Remote, press the left button with the small star icon. To brighten the lights, press the right button the large star icon.



#### 4.3.1 Adjust the Position of Your Led Lights

Upon extending your awning, the LED lights will automatically position themselves at approximately a 45° angle toward your coach. If you wish to point them in a different direction or at a different angle, you can use the mobile app to reposition the roller tube.

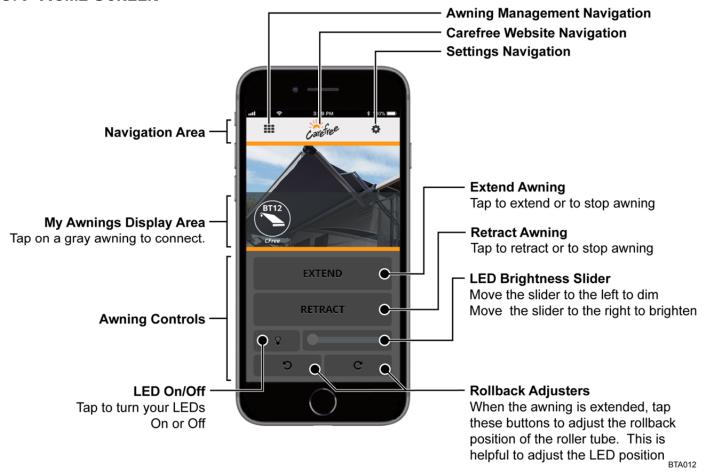
1. Open your mobile app and extend your awning.



- 2. Once the awning is fully extended and has settled into the default rollback position, press the rollback adjustment buttons at the bottom of the Home screen until you reach the desired position. Tapping the left button will slightly retract the awning, while tapping the right button will slightly extend it.
- 3. Once you have found the position you like, retract the awning to save the position. Now, every future extension should roll out to your saved position.

# **5 Navigating Your App**

# 5.1 Home Screen



#### 5.1.1 Navigation Buttons



The Awning Management button icon on the home screen resembles a square grid and will take you to the Awning Management page when pressed. This is where you can claim the awnings you wish to control via the app. See the next section of this manual for additional information.



Pressing the Carefree icon will take you to the Carefree website when you wish to add to your awning collection or to contact us.



Pressing the gear icon will provide access to the following pages:

**Settings Page:** If your awning is equipped with the BT Motion sensor, you can adjust the motion sensitivity level of the awning.

**Peripherals Page:** This page displays the status of the peripheral devices. The Notifications area offers status information about your awning.

**About Page:** This page displays your awning's firmware version, identification numbers, and ignition lockout status (if applicable).

#### 5.1.2 My Awnings Display Area

This area only displays claimed awnings from the Awning Management Screen. Visit the Awning Management Screen to add or remove awnings from the My Awnings Display Area.

Tap on an awning in the My Awnings Display Area to connect and enable its controls. Only one awning is selectable at a time. The first time you connect to an awning, your awning must be in pairing mode. You should only need to do this once, and once connected, they will recognize each other via the MAC address for future connections.

Have more than one awning? You can see up to three of your awnings at a time from the home screen. Simply swipe your finger across the display to view awnings on other pages.

# **5.1.3 AWNING CONTROLS**

EXTEND

Pressing the Extend button will cause the awning to extend. Pressing the Extend button while the awning is in motion will cause the awning to stop.

Pressing the Retract button will cause the awning to retract. Tap the Retract button while the awning is in motion, and the awning will stop.

RETRACT

The app will display the current state of the awning if the physical switch or BT Remote was used to change the state of the awning.



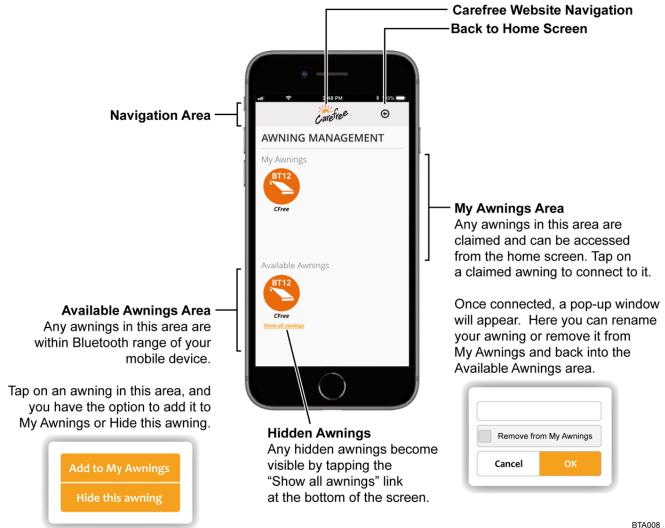
The button with the light bulb icon powers the awning LED lights on or off. When the bulb is highlighted, the lights are on and brightness adjustments are active.

The brightness slider affects the awning LED brightness. Move the slider to the left to dim the LED lights or to the right to brighten them.

The buttons with rounded arrows are used to fine-tune the positioning of the roller tube, so you can point your LED lights back toward the coach, away from the coach, or anywhere in between. Tapping the left button will slightly retract the awning, while tapping the right button will slightly extend it. Position the lead rail exactly how you want it, and then retract your awning to save the lead rail position. Any time you extend your awning in the future, it will fully extend, and roll back to your saved position so your LEDs are exactly where you want them.

**NOTE:** The rollback positioning feature is not available for small box awnings.

# 5.2 AWNING MANAGEMENT PAGE



#### 5.2.1 MY AWNINGS

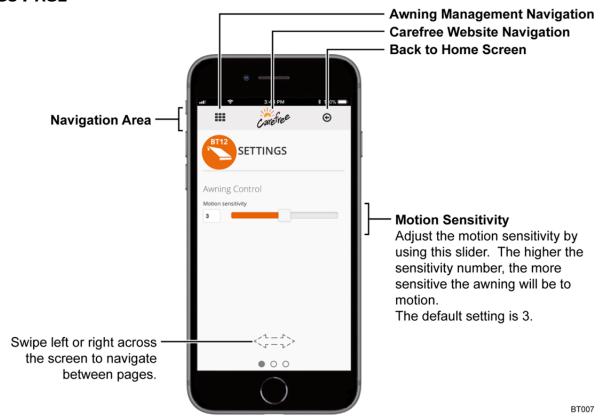
The My Awnings area of the Awning Management page contains any awnings you have claimed from the Available Awnings area. Tap on an awning icon to connect to that awning. The first time you connect to an awning, your awning must be in pairing mode. Once you have paired to the awning successfully, the awning will remember your device for quick connection in the future.

Tap on an awning to launch a window of options. Here, you can rename an awning by tapping inside of the text box. Check the Remove from My Awnings checkbox to move an awning back into the Available Awnings area. Note that if the awning is not in pairing mode, it will disappear, as only available awnings in pairing mode are displayed in the Available Awnings section.

#### 5.2.2 AVAILABLE AWNINGS

Any awnings listed in the "Available Awnings" area of the Awning Management page are within Bluetooth range of your mobile device and are in pairing mode. Tap on an awning to launch an options window. Selecting Add to My Awnings will move the awning into the My Awnings area. Selecting Hide this awning will cause the icon to disappear from view. This is useful if you do not wish to see your neighbor's awnings display on your phone. Once you select this option, a new option will appear at the bottom of the screen. Tap Show all awnings to display any hidden awnings.

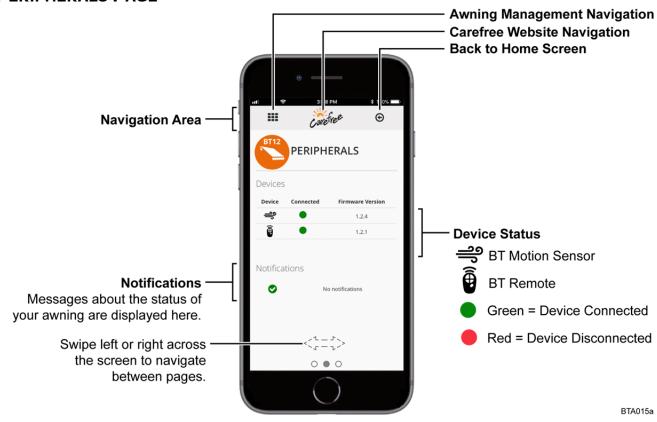
# **5.3 SETTINGS PAGE**



#### 5.3.1 MOTION SENSITIVITY SLIDER

If you have the optional BT Motion Sensor for your awning, you can adjust the motion sensitivity on this page. When wind causes movement of the awning beyond the set sensitivity level, the awning will automatically retract. The sensitivity level can be set on a scale between one (1) and five (5), five being the most sensitive. The factory default setting is three (3). To increase protection, slide the bar to the right or enter a higher number in the numeric field next to the slider.

# **5.4 Peripherals Page**



# **5.4.1 NOTIFICATIONS**

The Notifications area shows status information about your awning.

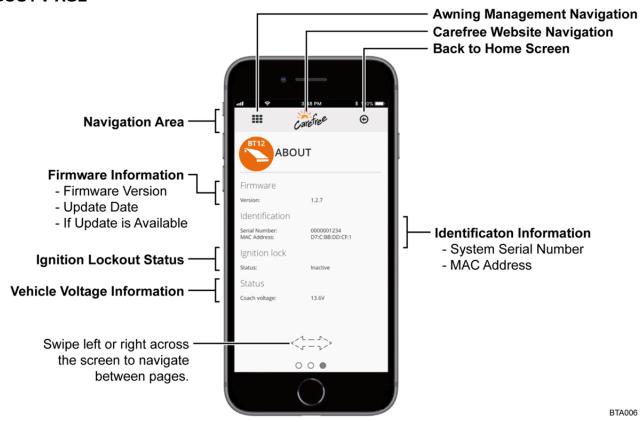
Notification Message	Meaning
No Notifications	No action required
Awning retracted due to wind	When the optional BT Motion Sensor is installed, the awning will retract in windy conditions (for more information go to page 12).
Ignition ON	The system disables the extend function when the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position (for more information go to page 2).
	Functions will return to normal operation when the ignition key is turned OFF.
Awning light switch off	The awning light power switch is not ON

# **5.4.2 DEVICE STATUS**

This area shows the status and firmware version of peripheral devices connected to the BT12 system.

Symbol	Meaning		
Green	Device is connected.		
Red	Device is not connected.		
	The device is out of Bluetooth range.		
	The batteries need to be replaced in the device.		
	The device is not working and must be replaced.		
Device not listed	The device has not been paired to the control module (for more information on pairing go to page 4).		

# **5.5 ABOUT PAGE**



# **6 Frequently Asked Questions**

#### 6.1 WHY AM I UNABLE TO CONNECT MY AWNING WITH MY MOBILE DEVICE?

Possible reasons:

- Your device may have Bluetooth turned OFF.
  - o Locate the Bluetooth settings on your device and turn Bluetooth ON.
- Your device is out of Bluetooth range.
  - o Normally, Bluetooth has a range of 50 feet without walls or obstructions. Move closer to your awning and try connecting again.
- Another mobile device is connected to your awning.
  - Only one mobile device can connect to an awning at a time. Remember, some mobile devices can run apps in the background. Ensure other users have completely exited the app before you attempt to connect.
- The awning is locked
  - o If this is your first time connecting to your awning, you must put the awning into pairing mode. The awning will not display in the Available Awnings section of the Awning Management page unless it is in pairing mode. Refer to page 4.

# 6.2 WHY IS MY AWNING NOT EXTENDING?

Possible reasons:

- The physical power switch is turned to OFF.
  - Check the physical switch.
- The app is not connected to the awning.
  - o If the Extend button appears grayed out, the device is not connected to an awning. Tap on the awning icon in the awning display area to connect.
- Ignition lockout is active.
  - Navigate to the About page of your Carefree app to check the ignition lockout status. If ignition lockout is Active and the vehicle motor is running, the awning will not respond to extend commands. Turn off the vehicle to extend the awning.

# 6.3 WHY IS MY AWNING RETRACTING ON ITS OWN?

Possible reasons:

- High wind or motion is detected
  - o If your awning is equipped with a motion sensor, the awning will automatically retract when excessive movement is detected. This is a protective feature of your Carefree awning.
- RTL ignition lockout is ON
  - If your awning has Retract Then Lock (RTL) ignition lockout active and your vehicle ignition is turned ON, the awning will fully retract and lockout any extend commands. Turn off the vehicle to begin operating the awning.
- Another user retracted the awning using the Carefree app or the switch or the remote.

# 6.4 CAN I CONTROL MULTIPLE AWNINGS WITH THE CAREFREE CONNECTS MOBILE APP?

Yes, you can, but not at the same time. Simply claim each awning from the Awning Management page. Put each of the desired awnings into pairing mode and pair your mobile device to them. Name each awning according to its location on your RV or camper for easy identification later.

#### 6.5 How do I remove an awning?

You can easily remove an unwanted awning from your app. Go to the Awning Management screen, tap on the awning in the My Awnings Display Area that you wish to remove. A pop-up window will appear. Check the checkbox next to Remove from My Awnings and press OK. This will move the awning back to the Available Awnings area. If you wish to completely hide the awning from view, tap on the same awning icon again. Select Hide this awning in the new pop-up window. This will remove it from view completely.

# 6.6 ACCIDENTALLY HID MY OWN AWNING FROM VIEW. HOW DO I GET IT BACK?

To locate your awning, navigate to the Awning Management screen. If you have hidden it from view, there will be a small hyperlink at the bottom left of the screen that reads Show all awnings. Tap this hyperlink and all awnings within range will reappear. Tap on your awning icon to add it back to the My Awnings Display Area.

**NOTE:** If you had previously hidden other awnings that you wish to keep hidden, you will need to hide them again. The Show all awnings hyperlink reveals all hidden awnings.

#### 6.7 How do I rename my awning?

Navigate to the Awning Management screen. Tap on the awning in the My Awnings area that you wish to rename. A pop-up window will appear with a text field displaying the name of the awning. Tap in the text field to launch the keypad and type in the new name. Click OK to save the name. We recommend choosing a location so you can easily pinpoint which awning you are controlling (e.g. Entrance, Bedroom, etc.)

# 6.8 How do I point my LED lights where I want them to be?

Refer to page 8 "Adjust the Position of Your Led Lights".

#### 6.9 WHY WON'T MY LED DIMMER WORK?

If you are moving the slider bar to adjust your LED lights and no lights are on, you may have them turned OFF. Tap the button next to the slider with the light bulb icon to turn the LED lights ON, and reattempt using the slider.

#### 6.10 My awning keeps beeping. What does this mean?

The batteries in your motion sensor need to be replaced. The awning will beep every 30 seconds and partially retract as a warning that the batteries must be replaced, as long as the awning switch is in the ON position. The awning will operate normally after the batteries are replaced.

Battery replacement is covered in the owner's manual for your awning equipped with the BT12 Wireless Awning Control System. Owner's manuals are available at www.carefreeofcolorado.com.

