

NOV 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have recently read that a vote was made to cap the price on calls made from prisons. I am inquiring on how to seek refunds for rates I ~~was charged~~ and have been charged. I am currently at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Ft. Madison IA. I am from Missouri and calling home to my family a mere 20 miles cost me \$3.33 to connect and .33¢ a minute. That's more than it cost a fellow inmate to call home in Northern Iowa. These rates are very expensive for me and my family. I hope the changes take affect soon. If you could send me any information on how to seek refunds and also anything you have on the new changes to take place I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you

Tyler Hobbs #6598811

ISP

P.O. Box 316

Ft. Madison IA 52627

12-375

Received & Inspected

NOV 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

FRANCIS FERRI EN 0177
SCI Dallas
1000 Follies Road
Dallas, PA 18612-0286

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

September 05, 2013
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

September 23, 2013

SECOND REQUEST
November 16, 2013

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

Recently there was a press release indicating that on Friday, August 9, the FCC voted to cap rates for prison interstate telephone calls.

I am including a copy of the article which reported this decision.

I am respectfully requesting a copy of the FCC's 2-1 decision.

Additionally, the article indicated that affected parties could file a claim for reimbursement of excessive costs for the interstate calls. I am requesting any available information (such as a claim form) indicating how one may initiate the process for recoupment of excessive fees/costs, etc.

Much thanks for your office's attention to my inquiry.

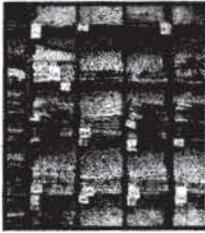
Sincerely,

Francis Ferri
Claimant, SCI-Dallas

Francis Ferri
Francis Ferri

LC-9541
Witness

attachment/



News

REFORMS BRING RELIEF TO MILLIONS OF FAMILIES BY REDUCING THE COST OF INTERSTATE LONG-DISTANCE CALLS

Press Release from
the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Editorial note: We received word from the Phone Justice Campaign that more petition signatures were from Pennsylvania than any other state. They are sure that the information shared here in Graterfriends, to which you responded, had a lot to do with that. Your voices are being heard!

August 9, Washington, D.C — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today took long-overdue steps to ensure that the rates for interstate long-distance calls made by prison inmates are just, reasonable and fair.

Studies make clear that inmates who maintain contact with family and community while in prison have reduced rate of recidivism and are more likely to become productive citizens upon their release. Lower rates of recidivism also benefit society by reducing crime, the need for additional prisons, and other costs.

In addition, an estimated 2.7 million children would benefit from increased communication with an incarcerated parent. Many of these children face challenges that are manifested in higher rates of truancy, homelessness, depression, and other ills

But the exorbitant price of interstate long-distance calls from correctional facilities today actually discourages such communication because it is too expensive (over \$17 for one 15-minute call), particularly for families facing economic hardship. The Order takes immediate action to change this and provide an affordable means to encourage such communication.

The Commission's reforms adopt a simple and balanced approach that protects security and public safety needs, ensures providers receive fair compensation while providing reasonable rates to consumers as follows:

- Requires that all interstate inmate calling rates, including ancillary charges, be based on the cost of providing the inmate calling service
 - Provides immediate relief to exorbitant rates:
 - ◊ Adopts an interim rate cap of \$0.21 per minute for debit and pre-paid calls and \$0.25 per minute for collect calls, dramatically decreasing rates of over \$17 for a 15-minute call to no more than \$3.75 or \$3.15 a call
 - ◊ Presumes that rates of \$0.12 per minute for debit and prepaid calls (\$1.80 for a 15-minute call) and \$0.14 cents per minute for collect calls (\$2.10 for a 15-minute call) are just, reasonable and cost-based (safe-harbor rates)
 - ◊ These rates include the costs of modern security features such as advanced mechanisms that block calls to victims, witnesses, prosecutors and other prohibited parties; biometric caller verification; real-time recording systems; and monitoring to prevent evasion of restrictions on call-forwarding or three-way calling
 - Concludes that "site commissions" payments from providers to correctional facilities may not be included in any interstate rate or charge
 - Clarifies that inmates or their loved ones who use Telecommunications Relay Services because of hearing and speech disabilities may not be charged higher rates
 - Requires a mandatory data collection, annual certification requirement, and enforcement provisions to ensure compliance with this Order
 - Seeks comment on reforming rates and practices affecting calls within a state
 - Seeks comment on fostering competition to reduce rates
- Building on state reforms, the Commission's action addresses a petition filed nearly a decade ago by Martha Wright, a Washington, D.C. grandmother who sought relief from exorbitant inmate calling rates. Since then, tens of thousands have urged the FCC to make it possible for them to stay in touch with loved ones in jail.

Holder, continued from page 16

The editorial board of the *New York Times* calls Holder's statement monumental; opposition to Holder's statement is almost non-existent. Both Democrats and Republicans are open to discussing reforms to mandatory minimums. According to the ACLU, senators Richard Durbin (D-IL), Mike Lee (R-UT), Rand Paul (R-KY) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) have already introduced bi-partisan bills to Congress that will lessen the impact of mandatory sentencing, if passed. This is important; bi-partisanship on mandatory sentences can help assure that a new administration will not impose harsher sentences while in office. While these reforms are only taking place on a federal level, it seems Holder is following some states that have already begun reforming their own mandatory sentencing laws.

Received & Inspected

November 14, 2013

NOV 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries & Complaints Division
445 12th St, SW
Washington, D.C. 20534

Dear Sir or Madam:

On August 9, 2013, the FCC voted to make reforms to the prison phone industry in a matter known as the "Wright Petition".

I am writing to request a copy of the regulations the FCC approved. I also understand the new regulations will not be effective until 90 days after being published in the Federal Register, and that legal challenges to the FCC order may delay their implementation. Can you inform me if and when the regulations are to be published in the Federal Register and if there are known legal challenges at this time?

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

Sincerely,

~~Timothy Queen~~

Timothy Queen #54443

P.O. Box 2017

Lake Charles, LA 70602

C: File