

Dear FCC,

First and foremost, thank you for finally doing something about the outrageous phone rates that take away the chance for inmate's families to communicate with their loved ones in prison. It is a very noble step in the right direction.

As a military wife who has been through multiple deployments with my husband, I know the value and importance of communication when your loved one is away. How that is all that you have, and how much it means.

With phone rates at such an incredibly higher cost for inmates families and friends it affects the morale of the inmate and the mental stability and health of their family when they cannot communicate more than maybe 1-2 calls a month or they have to choose between groceries and bills for a phone call. That is simply not right. Personally I talk to my friend whom is in a TDCJ unit, and it costs me over \$10 for 15 minutes. Besides his dad, I am all that he has on the outside looking out for him. He has told me over and over again just how much phone calls help him to stay positive, productive and out of trouble.

You see, to an inmate that call reminds them, that they have something besides those 4 walls always surrounding them. The best way to keep an inmate out of trouble, and rehabilitate them is NOT to limit their communication to those they love the most. That is what keeps them human, and that is what keeps them straight. When they cannot talk to their children, their mom, their dad, their significant others, or family....it affects not just the inmate, but also their family.

A lot of family members and close friends of inmates do not live in the state the inmate may be in, and therefore visitation is not even a choice. If they cannot afford the 15-20.00 phone bills, then they can only use mail. And while mail is amazing to communicate, it is not a voice to the child who wants to hear their mom or dad. It is not a voice to the sick and dying mother who wants to hear their son or daughter. By changing phone rates you can help families fight depression as well as helping an inmate.

The high phone rates simply punish not just the ones behind the bars, but the ones who love them on the outside.

Thank you so much for taking public comments on this matter and we all are waiting anxiously to see a positive outcome to the phone rates.

Sincerely,

Amanda Callahan