

The Coconino County Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Task Force strongly opposes the exorbitant phone fees and phone charges currently in place which restrict communication between inmates, and their families, loved ones, and children. Such fees negatively impact children of incarcerated parents by limiting and often preventing regular contact with their parent(s) and by prohibiting critical opportunities for relationship building between parent and child.

The CIP Task Force has conducted research for over three years showing evidence that in most cases, child contact with an incarcerated parent promotes attachment, helps children cope with their feelings of loss and separation, and increases the likelihood of family re-unification post-incarceration.

Equally as important, recidivism rates of incarcerated parents are known to decrease when inmates maintain relationships with their children. National studies show the incarcerated are more likely to be supportive parents and successful adults upon their release.

Maintaining current phone use fees and current rates is an unnecessary attack on vulnerable inmates and their families.

We need to help ensure that the communication rights of children whose parent(s) are incarcerated are protected and that they are given the opportunities to maintain healthy, successful relationships with their incarcerated parent(s) despite the unfortunate circumstances.

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