

3/17/2013

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MAR 25 2013

Dear Secretary: Hello! PCC Mail Room with you

Good Bless you and your family!

This is a comment for WC-Docket Number 12-375. We are asking for serious consideration to get a phone system similar to the one in the Michigan State Prison System - \$1.80 anywhere in the world for 15 minutes and or 10¢ a minute. Instead of the current system where a \$10.00 card is used up on one call. Is the state system continually in kicking back some much of each system such as the phones - when the prisons get back for the phone call inmates make - taken out of what we are charge per phone call.

And if possible 1 free 10 minute phone call per week or month per inmate? There are many who do not get a job or their families are not able to send money into their loved one incarcerated.

I thank you very much for reading this and for serious consideration.

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a gift  
↓

## SEASONS OF THE HEART

SPRING; is when love buds anew; between a couple; love and care help it to grow.

SUMMER; is when patience, trust, and under

standing are added; as that love is now in full bloom for all to see.

Ahh; is when that love is not shown as often as in seasons past; but when it is, it's just as cherished, as in those seasons past.

WINTER; is the season when you are going on love. Even though your soulmate is gone physically; the one thing that is not; is those cherished memories of those seasons past.

AND; as you walk along in the park, you see a couple and you smile; because you realize that they are in the " SPRING " of their love and life.

Author God's Servant  
Elwood Gladney Jr.

May you have an awesome, blessed, caring, desired, enjoyable, fun, grand, humorous, incredible, joyful, kind, LOVING, meaningful, noble, opportunity-filled, perfecting of, vibrant, resourceful, special, tremendous, spirited, vibrant, whimsical, exhilarating, youth-restoring, zeal-filled journey we are blessed to be on.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elwood Gladney Jr. FA 0254

**Ruth Hardin**  
**Crossroads of Iowa**  
**4211 Grand Ave. Suite #4**  
**Des Moines, IA 50312**

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

March 18, 2013

Rulemaking number (12-375)  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications, Commission,  
Office of the Secretary,  
445 12th St. SW  
Room TW-B204,  
Washington, D.C. 20554

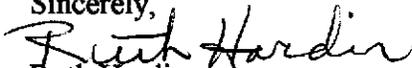
Commissioners and Staff,

the Iowa Department oven Corrections has a long history of charging excessive amounts for inmate phone calls which have resulted in huge profits at the expense of inmates and their families.

For a number of years the spokesperson for the department, Fred Scaletta, has told us that the Department is working on a new contact that will lower the rates. It never happens. In addition to this, the current service is very poor. Many of the phones are located outside, making it impossible for prisoners to make calls during bad weather. There are often interruptions in calls and this means that the caller is charged an additional fee to call back. For many years all calls were collect with the rates very high. Collecting the fees from families, who are often low income, was not always easy. The Department switched to Prepaid calls. This means that they are able to collect the fees at the time a call is made with no loss. When the switch was made to prepaid calls the charges went UP. Collect calls were also eliminated so if prisoners don't have money in their accounts they can't make calls.

You have the authority to help families of inmates by lowering the amount per minute the companies are able to charge, and a choice in services so maybe that will bring the fees down. Thank you for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Ruth Hardin

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MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

March 18, 2013

Susan Pike  
P.O. Box 975  
Englewood, CO 80151

FCC Proceeding: 12-375

Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request. I have a son who is currently serving time in the Colorado Department of Corrections. As I am not able to travel very often to the facility he is housed, we rely on frequent phone conversations. The burden of the excessively high cost of the calls prohibits us from talking as often as we would like. I am on a limited budget and the sole provider of monies to his commissary account. The cost for phone time is unfairly high. This needs to be addressed and made more reasonable for the inmates to make calls to family.

You have the authority to help families of inmates by lowering the amount per minute the companies are able to charge, and a choice in services so maybe that will bring the fees down. Thank you for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,



Susan Pike

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MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

MY NAME IS W. JOHNSON #247061 AND I AM WRITING  
IN REGARDS TO THE HIGH PHONE RATES. I MUST ADMIT  
THAT THIS HAS HAD A STRAIN ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
ME AND MY FAMILY. I RESPECTFULLY ASK YOU TO PLEASE  
LOOK INTO THIS MATTER TO ASSIST THOSE OF US WHO  
ARE FORCED TO PAY THESE OUTRAGEOUS PRICES TO COVER  
THE COST OF WHAT THE STATE IS CALLING, "SPECIAL EQUIPMENT."

I WOULD SUGGEST THAT EACH FACILITY NOT ONLY BE  
MONITORED IN REGARDS TO THE DUTIES OF THEIR SO  
CALLED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO GUAGE THE  
RESULTS OF SAID EQUIPMENT, BUT ALSO MAKE IT KNOWN  
TO THE PUBLIC SO THAT OUR TAX PAYING FAMILY MEMBERS  
CAN SEE EXACTLY WHERE THEIR MONEY IS GOING.

LASTLY IN MY HUMBLE OPINIONS I THINK IT IS UNETHICAL  
BUSINESS PRACTISES BY WAY OF PURPOSELY DECEIVING THE  
PUBLIC TO SUPPORT AN UNFOUNDED TRUTH THAT THIS SPECIAL  
EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THAT WE SHOULD  
COVER THE COST. THANKS FOR YOU TIME.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
Wm W. Johnson #247061

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This is A public comment for WC Docket  
NUMBER 12-375.

Received & Inspected.

MAR 25 2013

DEAR SECRETARY DORTCH,

FCC Mail Room

I would like to suggest THAT there Be A  
set price for each phone call NOT TO  
EXCEED \$1.00 for connection fee and  
the whole 20 minute phone call.

if this is NOT POSSIBLE THEN MAYBE  
A 1 time monthly fee of \$30-50 FOR 1  
20 minute call A DAY.

BECAUSE MOST FAMILYS ARE POOR EVEN \$30  
A MONTH IS TOO MUCH SO 2 FREE PHONE  
CALLS A MONTH WOULD BE A GREAT HELP.

if I could AFFORD IT AND MY FAMILY COULD  
AFFORD IT WE WOULD TALK EVERY DAY  
BUT WITH PHONE PRICES IM LUCKY IF I  
CAN TALK TO MY SON & WIFE 1 time every  
6 months.

Thank you SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND  
help!

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Sincerely,  
Jeff MARSHALL

Robert T. Smith, AS-2769  
1100 Pike Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16654

3/17/13  
Received & Inspected  
MAR 25 2013  
FCC Mail Room

This is A public Comment For W/C Docket #  
12-375

Dear Secretary Datch:

I write in support of the  
above action. My family sometimes spend over \$400.00  
each month, just so we can at least communicate  
and maintain a connection. There have been times when  
family members were ill, and I could not call to  
console them because I ran out of phone time.  
It is extremely hard to pay over nine dollars per  
call, as my family live in New York, Florida, Atlanta  
and Massachusetts. If kick backs to the D.O.C. was  
terminated, the fees would not be so extraordinarily high.  
Other states have eliminated these kick backs, and the  
rates are no longer astronomical. The phone situation  
feels like cruel & unusual torture. Thank you

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March 18, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission,  
Office of the Secretary,  
445 12th St. SW  
Room TW-B204,  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Michael I. Kemp  
1508 Canyon Run Road  
Naperville, IL 60565

**FCC Proceeding: 12-375**

Commissioners and Staff,

The Department of Corrections in numerous states have a long history of charging excessive amounts for inmate phone calls which have resulted in huge profits at the expense of inmates and their families.

In addition to this, the current service is very poor. Many of the phones are located outside, making it impossible for prisoners to make calls during bad weather. There are often interruptions in calls and this means that the caller is charged an additional fee to call back.

For many years all calls were collect with the rates very high. Collecting the fees from families, who are often low income, was not always easy. The Department switched to prepaid calls.

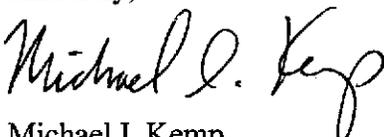
This means that they are able to collect the fees at the time a call is made with no loss. When the switch was made to prepaid calls the charges went UP. Collect calls were also eliminated so if prisoners don't have money in their accounts they can't make calls.

In a growing number of states, such as our neighbors, Nebraska and Michigan rates are now revenue neutral. This means that the charge is only what it costs to operate the system.

You have the authority to help families of inmates by lowering the amount per minute the companies are able to charge, and a choice in services so maybe that will bring the fees down.

Thank you for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael I. Kemp

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LHM:ABODE

P.S. Just a <sup>additional</sup> thought: How about issuing / or ~~authorizing~~ <sup>authorizing</sup> a vendor to issue prepaid phone cards?

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 25 2013

Re: MB Docket No. 10-71

FCC Mail Room

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing to let you know that my cable TV bill keeps sky rocketing because big-business broadcasters insist on charging exorbitant carriage fees to our local cable providers. While I understand that local cable providers are required by federal regulations to obtain permission to carry the broadcasters' signals, I strongly protest the fact that these broadcasters are charging enormous carriage fees and, as a result, causing my cable bill to go up and up.

I think it is vital to the public interest for the FCC to address this issue immediately. It is imperative for the FCC to take action that will curb abusive conduct by TV station owners and protect millions of customers across the nation that are being unfairly treated by these dominant broadcast corporations, which are allowed to rely on favorable federal regulations to engage in rampant, unrestrained price gouging.

I believe it is the FCC's duty to stop money-hungry broadcasters from lining their pockets at the expense of Small Town America. I urge you to stop broadcasters from charging these enormous fees and introduce some sanity and fairness into the retransmission consent process.

Thank you,

Signed

*Marcella M. Lupa*

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MAR 25 2013

FCC MR. James H. Davis  
3212 Terrace Dr.  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary,  
445 12th St. SW, Room TW-B204,  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioners and Staff,

Re: FCC Proceeding: 12-375

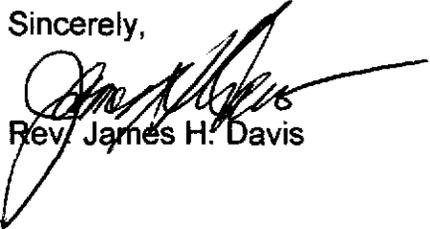
I am Reentry Team Coordinator for Women at the Well, a congregation within the walls of Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. We provide mentoring for women recently released from prison.

I am continually appalled at the unnecessary financial burdens that "society" piles on ex-offenders. Every time they turn around they owe money to somebody, money not related to their crime but fees and service charges related to their current life. These fees not only make their reentry more difficult, it conveys the impression that "society" basically does not want them to succeed, further alienating them from mainstream culture.

Excessive phone charges may seem like a small thing, but as part of a pattern of financial pressure from the authorities these charges are a BIG thing.

I understand that you have the authority to lower the amount per minute the companies are able to charge, and a choice in services so maybe that will bring the fees down. On behalf of struggling ex-offenders and their families, please give us a break. Thank you for looking into this matter."

Sincerely,

  
Rev. James H. Davis

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891 N. YARNALLTON ROAD  
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40511

**Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW, Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554**

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

**RE: This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375**

**Thank you so much for looking into this matter. It has been a source of irritation for many years. The prison system in all respects treats the family like prisoners instead of victims.**

**We pay approximately \$50/month for calls. Our son calls home twice a week. The interesting thing is the inconsistency of the rate per minute. A twenty-minute call (the maximum allowed) costs \$6.08 or \$.30/minute. If we do not answer and the machine picks up a one-minute call is \$1.88. A four-minute call is \$2.54 or \$.63 per minute and a two-minute call runs \$2.10 or \$1.05 per minute. The time of day does not matter and the only way to get the lowest rate per minute seems to be to talk the maximum time of twenty minutes.**

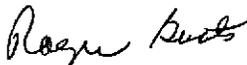
**We can no longer receive collect calls since our carrier does not accept the jail calls any longer. That was the most convenient way for us. Now we have a prepaid account, which means that we have money sitting unused for a period of time. No matter what amount you add to the account there is a fee of \$6.95 each time. I assume this is to encourage a deposit of larger amounts of money.**

**Calls are dropped periodically but not often. When the call is dropped and our son calls again there is another charge.**

**While I think that allowing prisoners to call free of charge is a good idea for some families the privilege could be abused. I also wonder if the taxpayers can afford that expense. It might help us all better if you could negotiate better rates for us all.**

**Thank you for your attention to this matter. Any help would be appreciated.**

**Sincerely,**



**ROGER C. BOOTS**

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Jamar Downing  
# HA-1206  
SCI-Somerset  
1600 Walters Mill Road  
Somerset, PA. 15510

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

March 17, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th. Street, SW; Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: "This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375"

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which is approximately four hours towards the eastern part of the state. All my phone calls are to Philadelphia, because that is where my support system resides.

Each call to my family, via pre-paid calling cards purchased from institutional commissary is \$5.41 and/or \$6.25 collect, per 15 minute call. The connection fee is an astronomical \$2.20+ for my family to even except the call. Either which way I can call collect or pre-paid. Realistically, it cost me/my family \$90.00 per month in order to keep constant contact with loved ones. These rates are an extreme hardship on my family and myself. My mother has health issues, which prevent her from working. I have an eight year old son who needs to talk to his father. Granted it is my mistakes which got me arrested, but it does not negate me from being a father to my son. These prices do. I being my mothers only child, and my son's only male figure, these prices are tearing my family apart.

To make matters worse, the PA. DOC., has recently contracted a company called "Global Tel Link". This company boldly has been

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calling prisoners family telling them, "if they don't sign up and pre pay their company they won't be able to except collect calls from the prisons". They sell phone time in \$25.00 and \$50.00 increments. But here's the catch; when the money on the phone gets down to \$15.00, a prisoner is no longer able to call! Also, I'm learning that there are more hidden fees with this company. Being as though Global tel Link is the only collect call service prisoners can use, they are taking complete and total advantage of us and our families. With the American Dollar being on a downward slope, this is nothing short of robbery/extortion! I don't know why they are able to hold \$15 in escrow, but that is how it goes. If you don't have it, no more collect calls. Furthermore, though this company charges these outrageous prices, there are far too many instances where money is on the account, but when I call a recording will come on and say, "this number does not accept collect calls"! Within a day or so, the service might start working, but maybe the next day, it will be back to the "recording". A "day or so" is precious in here. I may need to inquire about my court/appeal situation, or I may need to catch someone who is not available on days this service works.

If a call happens to get dropped after the person accepts the call. If you call back you have to pay the \$2.20+ connection fee again! If I put in a "Telephone System Discrepancy Form" to try to get my money back, the usual response is, in short, "it's your (the prisoners) fault".

If the phone rates were lower I would be able to communicate with my family much more. Not only that, I would have been able to keep in contact with my daughter whom I lost total communication with due to her mother and myself not having the funds to pay these rates. Yes, these rates do hinder and eliminate relationships with loved ones. There is nothing like hearing the voice of the ones you love.

The Pennsylvania State Prisons sell phone time on commissary. The

phone time is sold in \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50, and \$100 increments. Plus, there is a .60¢ tax imposed to raise the price higher, i.e. a \$10 card totals to \$10.60, \$15 card, totals to \$15.90, so on and so forth.

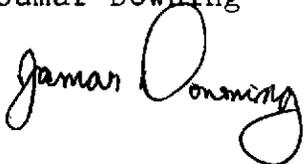
In conclusion, if the phone rates were lower it would open the doors to better communication to family, friends, and attorneys. It would allow prisoners to maintain a bond with those who are in there corner, and not cause so much distance. It would allow better communication, which will <sup>IN</sup> retrospect allow the prisoner not to be so much of a stranger when he/she returns home. With these high phone rates, the contact is so limited, if at all, that when he/she gets home there is a higher sense of unfamiliarity. Also, if there was a mandate to allow prisoners a certain amount of "free calling" time per prisoner, the impact would be great. Prisoners will be able to talk to their loved ones no matter what. It would take a "load" off so many people, and help so many people that words can't even explain. It would definitely strengthen the family bond.

Thank you for your time and effort. We as prisoners have no voice in such matters, and are victims of the P.A. DOC's monopolization, but the unchallenged price gouging has to stop. Especially being as though technology is so advanced, and allows phone prices to be so low everywhere else. The amount a prisoner pays for, lets say seven or eight phone calls, is the price that one may pay for a month worth of service outside of these walls, and have all the added features that comes with it.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Jamar Downing

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamar Downing". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Mr. Mack Tiggart, #147662  
Chippewa Correctional Facility  
4269 West M-80  
Kinchelos, MI 49784

\*\*\*\*\*

March 17, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
495 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-B 204  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: PRISON PHONE JUSTICE; MY COMMENTS**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I'm writing to give public comment for the **WE DOCKET No. 2-395**, which your office is compiling input, testimony, and/or information on.

First of all I would like to commend you, and your staff for taking an interest in the prison phone system, because it's a **Rip-off** for all prisoner, and family members of prisoner here in Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC); Negotiated a phone contract with Public Communication Services (PCS); on or about 2010/2011. The new contract would allow inmates here in Michigan to pay 4¢ a minute for a 15 minute phone call. Which is a reasonable rate. "So we thought!!! Until the MDOC took it upon themselves to add on \$2.88 which increased the phone calls to \$2.92 per 15 minutes. This additional \$2.88 was to purchase a device that would detect the use of cell phone within the prison.

I am serving a life sentence. Being able to call my family motivate me to never give-up on the fight for my freedom, it further nurture my family bonds. My prison job don't pay enough for me to keep up with the increased phone rates.

Attached to this letter is a MIDOC Debit Complaint Form 20110615.doc for us to use if an inmate is having problems with the phone such as: (i) Debit Call will not work, (ii) Could not hear or be heard during the call, (iii) No balance account, and (iv) Other. The only thing about this form, is no matter what kind of problems we might be having at the top of the form it states: **CALLS MADE TO CELL PHONES WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY REASON.**

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The world revolve around cell phones, everybody have cell phones. So in a nut shell, whatever, problems we might have with the phone, we cannot get our money credit to our phone or our account. Yeah!! its a Rip-off.

I surely hope that you and your staff canand/or will help the prisoner here in Michigan to reduce the phone rates, and the other problems that comes with it.

Let me conclude by saying....

Never give up on anyone, or believe that someone is beyond help or beyond hope, for who is to say that which is barren now will not be fruitful tomorrow. You and your staff can make a different in all inmates who are incercerted herein the MDOC dealing with the high rates phone calls. I anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely,



Mack Tiggart

cc:

mt/mtf

Prisoner Debit Telephone Form

**~~CALLERS MADE TO CELL PHONES WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY REASON~~**

Prisoner Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Prisoner Number & PIN \_\_\_\_\_ Lock \_\_\_\_\_

Number dialed \_\_\_\_\_ Date of call \_\_\_\_\_

Time of call \_\_\_\_\_ Person called \_\_\_\_\_

**USE A SEPARATE SHEET FOR EACH PHONE NUMBER YOU ARE ASKING ABOUT.**

Check the Box below that applies & add a short comment in the space provided on what happened.  
If this form is not entirely filled out correctly and neatly, we will not investigate the complaint.

**ANY WRITING OUTSIDE THE LINES OR ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM WILL BE IGNORED  
AND YOUR REQUEST WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

Debit call will not work \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Could not hear or be heard during the call \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

System will not provide account balance for my account \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other ( Must be very specific) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A response will be sent to your facility within 45 days of receiving this form. We will not process any other forms at this PO Box. This completed form must be mailed regular mail through the US Postal Service to:

PCS  
PO Box 268  
Okemos, MI 48805-0268

" THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR WC DOCKET NUMBER 09-107-0100 Inspected

MAR 25 2013

DEAR MARKENE H. DORTCH, SECRETARY

FCC Mail Room

PRISON - PHONE JUSTICE

Hello: I am in the M.D.C., THE PHONE RATES ARE UNACCEPTABLE, AND UNJUST, AND JUST DOWN RIGHT WRONG! CALLS USE TO BE A + \$1.50 A CALL = 15 MINUTES

NOW IT'S ALMOST \$3.00 WHEN WE ADD TO THE PHONE FROM OUR PRISONER ACCOUNTS, AND ALMOST \$3.30 OR MORE WHEN WE CALL OUR FAMILYS COLLECT!

THE PHONE RATES HAS NEARLY DOUBLED, AND WE MAKE SLAVE WAGES ON OUR JOB DETAILS, .32¢ A HR. WE DONT MAKE REAL MONEY, AND YET THEY STILL KEEP SKY ROCKETING THEIR PRICES EVERY CHANCE THEY GET!

I SPEND ABOUT \$200 A MONTH FROM MY PRISON ACCOUNT, AND MY FAMILY SPENDS AT LEAST \$150.00 OR MORE A MONTH WITH THE RATES BEING SO HIGH OUR FAMILY MEMBERS DONT WANT TO ACCEPT COLLECT CALLS BECAUSE OF THE PRICE AND EFFECTS ON THEIR PHONE BILL COST.

IM NOT SURE IF IT IS A CONNECTION FEE, BUT WE GET CHARGE LIKE .19 OR 20¢ A MINUTE WHICH IS VERY UNFAIR TO OUR COST OF LIVING! AND YES THEY GET CHARGED FOR A SET UP FEE IM NOT SURE OF THE AMOUNT, BUT IT'S NOT CHEAP AT ALL!

2)

calls always drop we get charged for that minute that it dropped! AND HOW EVER LONG WE CONTINUE HOLDING THE PHONE, NOT KNOWING THAT THE CALL DROPPED!

I use the phone every day to call my family, and yes I could call even more if the calls were more reasonable

if there was free call time? It would help every one to get in touch with people who we normally could not reach due to the lack of funds, and the high rates combined

I am not 100% sure on the call rates for the disabled, but I believe they get charged the same as regular calls

PLEASE GET US JUSTICE!

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17  
13

TIMOTHY SAMPSON # 492 307

M. D. C.

March 18, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission,  
Office of the Secretary,  
445 12th St. SW  
Room TW-B204,  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Georgeann Oberlin  
237 White Fawn Tr.  
Downers Grove, IL 60516

**FCC Proceeding: 12-375**

Commissioners and Staff,

The Department of Corrections in numerous states have a long history of charging excessive amounts for inmate phone calls which have resulted in huge profits at the expense of inmates and their families.

In addition to this, the current service is very poor. Many of the phones are located outside, making it impossible for prisoners to make calls during bad weather. There are often interruptions in calls and this means that the caller is charged an additional fee to call back.

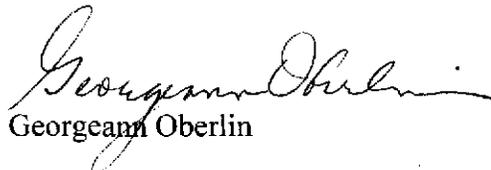
For many years all calls were collect with the rates very high. Collecting the fees from families, who are often low income, was not always easy. The Department switched to prepaid calls.

This means that they are able to collect the fees at the time a call is made with no loss. When the switch was made to prepaid calls the charges went UP. Collect calls were also eliminated so if prisoners don't have money in their accounts they can't make calls.

In a growing number of states, such as our neighbors, Nebraska and Michigan rates are now revenue neutral. This means that the charge is only what it costs to operate the system.

You have the authority to help families of inmates by lowering the amount per minute the companies are able to charge, and a choice in services so maybe that will bring the fees down. Thank you for looking into this matter."

Sincerely,

  
Georgeann Oberlin

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Larry Smith  
PO Box 975  
Marion, IA 52302-0975  
FCC Proceeding: 12-375

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MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Commissioners and Staff,

Our son has been an inmate for 15 years. We send him between \$50 - \$75 each month so he can call us on a local phone. His calls cost the prison nothing. This means we have paid \$10,800 for free local calls over the 15 years. Also, all but one phone is located outside, which means me must be out in the elements to make the calls regardless of the season. That is if the phones are working (most of the time they just have bad reception, but you still pay for the call. No refunds here.)

I have attended several of the Dept of Corrections meetings over the years and this has been a topic at a lot of them. The D.O.C. has promised to lower the rates, however in 15 years it has not happened. In 2012, the D.O.C. admitted to collecting at least (if not more) than \$75,000 above and beyond the costs of inmate phones around Iowa.

They are using the phones as a profit center and that seems to be their intention.

You have the authority to help families of inmates by lowering the amount per minute the companies are able to charge, and a choice in services so maybe that will bring the fees down. Thank you for looking into this matter."

Sincerely,

Larry Smith



No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

0

March 19, 2013

Received & Inspected

Dear, Secretary Dorch

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

It was brought to my attention that we could give our input on the cost of the prison phone system and how it affects me. The phone system has effected me in many ways such as me not being able to talk to my family because of the prices of the phone it makes it hard to contact my mother, son, and friends. I'm not saying phone calls should be free nor should they be too low, to where the company can't make money but \$3.20 for a phone call is too much. And for the amount of money that we have to spend on our phone calls, calls are being dropped, some of the phones have static sometimes and it's not fair to us to have to pay that price and the phones don't work correctly. In my opinion I think that phone cost should go back to the price of (\$1.50) where every prisoner can afford to call their love ones and there be ones can afford to accept their calls. Well I would like to thank you for your time and I hope that soon the cost of the phones will be reduced to a lower price.

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

Sincerely Yours  
Mer. Kyle B Baykin

Dear Secretary Dortch,

My name is NICK KOKOTOVICH I am currently serving a 10 Years sentence. I've served 3 years so far and for the past 2 I have not been able to call my family due to expensive charges on the Phone. When I was in the Juneau, AK Correctional Center they were in ~~Juneau~~ Ketchikan, AK. Even though they told her she had to open an account, it cost \$50.00 to do. We were only allowed to talk for 30 min. at a time then it cuts off. Then had to call back but if I talked for 30 min. the Phone number was blocked until she paid the charge for going over the money she had left from the first call. It cost \$35.00 or more for one 30 min. call.

The connect fee for each Phone call - no matter the time span - and charge a minute, was outrageous. ~~was~~ We were in the same state then, now I'm further away and they live in Miami, Florida. It is now impossible to talk to them on the Phone due to expensive charges. My family has never been even middle class, we have struggled all our lives, even when the economy was supposedly good. But not even a middle class can afford the Phone charges, that says something about security. And we are not allowed to use Phone cards and if we use a 3rd party it results in the Phone number - Both - being blocked permanently. Now your supposed to be able to call a number the first time to get connected to talk for 30 min. until they pay the bill for the Phone to be unblocked.

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

Over →

received 3/13/13

MAR 20 2013

FCC Mail Room

But if the person before you with that number used the company and did not pay the last bill it is already blocked. Even if that is not the case most the time it's still blocked. Until of course they get money first, usually by having to set up an account with them. And even after you do sometimes the number is still blocked and is a real hassle to get unlocked. Very poor customer service. And outrageously expensive just to hear your family's voice, the next best thing to seeing them. I may not see my family for the next 7 years, some of us will never see them again.

Sincerely,

NICK KOKOTOVICH

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Mr. Kenny L. Brooks Bay #222828  
Lakeland Correctional Facility  
141 First Street  
Coldwater, Mich 49036

3/17/2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW; Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Ms. Dortch,

I'm writing your office in regards to the campaign for prison phone justice. My family spends almost \$400.00 per month. I have (3 Children's and 2 Grandchildren's) that I speak to daily.

The prison phones are very instrumental to maintaining contact with my family and others I however, the cost is too expensive to continue in this fashion as the above mentioned expressed the \$4,800.00 that is spent per year could be better used e.g. Children's Education and paying Household Bill's.

To force a family to sincerely pay exuberant fees for contact with a loved one that is incarcerated undermines the core of democracy.

Thank you for considering my dilemma and addressing them.

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Kenny L. Brooks Bay #222828  
Mr. Kenny L. Brooks Bay #222828

John Zeitler  
2815 Center St  
Des Moines, IA 50312

March 18, 2013

Received & Inspected  
MAR 25 2013  
FCC Mail Room

Commissioners and Staff

The charges that the county jail here charges for inmates to talk to their families via phone are exorbitant. Please see that those charges are no more than the actual expenses.

There's no need to profiteer on inmate phone calls.

It is particularly counterproductive because frequent communication between the inmate and his/her family is essential for a smooth transition back to society.

Thank you



No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

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MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Docket # 12-375

F.C.C.,

I am writing in regard to inmates being allowed to call home free of charge.

I've been incarcerated since Dec 2011. I've not been able to call home not even one time due to the phone systems ridiculously high priced rates. My mother is 70 years old and barely gets enough money to support herself. I am at Bland Corr. Center for the Re-entry program, I am due for release May 2014. In preparation for my re-entry into society I desperately need a relationship with my family. Being able to make even two (2) phone calls per month would be very beneficial for family support. Also job contacts could be made as well. Making employment inquiries is not very promising by writing a letter. Employers want to at least talk to their prospective employees.

Many inmates have wives and children that they need to talk to - everyone needs support, especially children. Please assist with making family support + relationship possible.

Number of Copies rec'd  
 0  
 ESCASODE

Tommy Vandyke #1051847

AH:

W.C. Docket # 12-375

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

3-17-13

Melvin Handy  
Bland corr Center  
256 Bland Farm Rd  
Bland VA 24315

I think the f.c.c should  
give free minutes to each Inmate  
a month and lower their Rates.  
my wife can not afford to put money  
on the phone for me to call her.  
It would be a big help not only  
for me but for everyone else in  
the system.

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

THANK  
YOU  
Melvin Handy

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Docket # 12-375

F.C.C.,

I'm writing requesting your assistance with making it possible for me to contact my family by phone free of charge. If I could be allowed one or two calls per month to check on my parents and siblings it would be very helpful. My parents, sister, and other family members need my support as well as me needing theirs. I have less than 24 mths. remaining on my sentence.

To prepare for my return to society I need positive support and especially a relationship with my family.

My parents are elderly and cannot afford the large expense of the phone systems in the Dept. of Corr.,

If each inmate was allotted a certain amount of phone minutes each month it would definitely be a positive move in the right direction.

Please assist, not only for inmates, but for the sake of our innocent family members.

Thank you, Jimmy Adams

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

0

3-18-13

Att: W.C. Docket # 12-375

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room 3-17-13

Bobby M Swift # 1285224

Bland Corr Center  
256 Bland farm Rd  
Bland VA 24315

I think that the F.C.C  
Should give out so many free minutes  
to each Inmate a month plus lower  
their rates. I do not live in V.A  
it costs me between \$25 to \$30 each  
month to call home. I haven't spoken  
to my family or fiance since I  
been here at Bland on a phone. My  
People can not afford to pay for  
phone calls my mother and fiance  
are on a fixed income. I been  
here 10 months and haven't talked to  
none of my family by phone. It  
would be nice to talk to them.  
I can't even afford a stamp to  
mail this letter thats why I'm sending  
it to you throw a friend.

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

0

THANK YOU

Bobby M Swift

3-17-13

Received & Inspected

3/17/13

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Quenton Thompson

AD-8538

SATF E3-235

P.O. Box 5242

Corcoran, CA 93212

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

Regarding: Rulemaking/Proceeding Number "12-375".

Deaf and hard of hearing inmates need videophone "And" TTY/TDD access. Video phones would provide easier and more efficient communication with family members and others.

Most deaf and hard of hearing individuals have difficulty with common English. We use ASL, American Sign Language, which is not structured the same as common spoken English. The use of videophones would better facilitate communication both to and from family members and others. TTY/TDD phones on the other hand, are slow. They make it difficult to to convey accurate messages, and because of the delayed time between sending and receiving messages, communication is slow, causing the overall cost of a message to be needlessly high.

In addition, prisoners need access to both video phones "and" TTY/TDD. This is because some hearing impaired inmates were not born deaf and don't sign well. Also some have family members who do not know sign language. And so to maintain adequate calling service to all concerned, both services should be provided.

Adding videophone service would improve our ability to program as deaf inmates. It would enhance our rehabilitation efforts, resulting in benefits to ourselves, our family and friends, and everyone concerned.

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

Sincerely,

  
Quenton Thompson

3/17/13

Quenton Thompson  
AD-8538  
SATF E3-235  
P.O. Box 5242  
Corcoran, CA 93212

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