

**JAIME CERNA K-95503
A-002-2014-005U
CASTF/SP
P.O. Box 5248
Corcoran, Ca. 93212**

Received & Inspected

3/14/13

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Rulemaking Number (12-375)

Dear FCC,

We are deaf inmates currently serving our term at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (CSATF) AT Corcoran, California. There are seven yards of different levels, and there are approximately a total of 40 deaf inmates exclusively using American Signing Language. We have requested a video phone communication system at CSATF and the request has been denied.

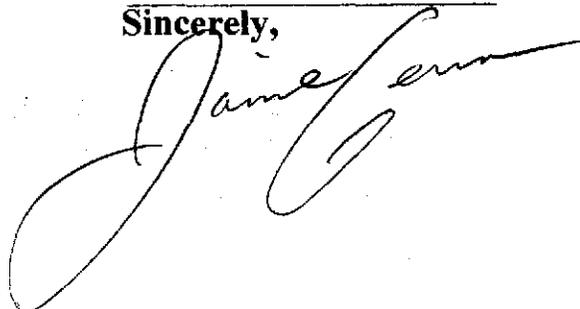
Only TDD has been provided, and it is unusable to us for several reasons. There are numerous of deaf inmates with 2.0 and lower TABE scores (reading/whitening level) therefore they are unable to communicate using TDD equipment. The TDD is not under the prison telephone contract with Global Tel Link (GTL). It costs much more for collect calls on TDD.

Our family members and friends, who are deaf, are no longer using the obsolete TDD system. A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition Subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TDD use is decreasing by 10% per year, and has fell by half over the past seven years. We are not able to communicate with their videophone through TDD, and the relay services provides assistance between TDD to voice telephone only, not deaf to deaf.

The deaf inmates get full communication with American Signing Language (ASL) only through the video phone, not TDD. Typewritten communication is not the equivalent of voice communication for individuals who primary communication is sign language. Unlike most spoken language, ASL does not have a written component.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Sincerely,



There is evidence in the record to indicate that inmates with hearing disabilities may not have access to ICS inmate Calling Services) at reasonable rate using TTYs. The record suggests that because the average length of a telephone conversation using a TTY is approximately four times longer than a voice telephone conversation, deaf and hard of hearing inmates who use toys have to pay more than their hearing counterparts. The record also suggests that try user have had to pay additional fees for connecting to a try relay operator. We seek comment on the types of ICS access that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing experience during their incarceration. Where such access to ICS is provided, are the rates the same as those available to those with out disability? If the rates differ, what is that difference and what are the explanations for such difference? We note that section 276 (b) (1) (A) specifically exempts “telecommunication relay service call for hearing disabled individuals” from the commission-established “per call compensation plan” ensuring that ICS providers are “fairly compensated.” How should the commission take this exemption into account in examining rates?

A 2012 report from the FCC’s try Transition subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that try use decreasing by about 10% per year, and has cut in half over the past seven years.

No prison or jail is known to have installed captioned telephones, many using security as an excuse for discrimination. Other facilities ensure that deaf prisoners have access to Free try call pursuant to the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

CLEMENTE DELEON AB4912
A-002-2017-006U
CASTF/SP
P.O. Box 5248
Corcoran, Ca. 93212

3/14/13

Received & Inspected
MAR 25 2013
FCC Mail Room

Rulemaking Number (12-375)

Dear FCC,

We are deaf inmates currently serving our term at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (CSATF) AT Corcoran, California. There are seven yards of different levels, and there are approximately a total of 40 deaf inmates exclusively using American Signing Language. We have requested a video phone communication system at CSATF and the request has been denied.

Only TDD has been provided, and it is unusable to us for several reasons. There are numerous of deaf inmates with 2.0 and lower TABE scores (reading/whitening level) therefore they are unable to communicate using TDD equipment. The TDD is not under the prison telephone contract with Global Tel Link (GTL). It costs much more for collect calls on TDD.

Our family members and friends, who are deaf, are no longer using the obsolete TDD system. A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition Subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TDD use is decreasing by 10% per year, and has fell by half over the past seven years. We are not able to communicate with their videophone through TDD, and the relay services provides assistance between TDD to voice telephone only, not deaf to deaf.

The deaf inmates get full communication with American Signing Language (ASL) only through the video phone, not TDD. Typewritten communication is not the equivalent of voice communication for individuals who primary communication is sign language. Unlike most spoken language, ASL does not have a written component.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Sincerely,



There is evidence in the record to indicate that inmates with hearing disabilities may not have access to ICS inmate Calling Services) at reasonable rate using TTYs. The record suggests that because the average length of a telephone conversation using a TTY is approximately four times longer than a voice telephone conversation, deaf and hard of hearing inmates who use toys have to pay more than their hearing counterparts. The record also suggests that try user have had to pay additional fees for connecting to a try relay operator. We seek comment on the types of ICS access that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing experience during their incarceration. Where such access to ICS is provided, are the rates the same as those available to those with out disability? If the rates differ, what is that difference and what are the explanations for such difference? We note that section 276 (b) (1) (A) specifically exempts “telecommunication relay service call for hearing disabled individuals” from the commission-established “per call compensation plan” ensuring that ICS providers are “fairly compensated.” How should the commission take this exemption into account in examining rates?

A 2012 report from the FCC’s try Transition subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that try use decreasing by about 10% per year, and has cut in half over the past seven years.

No prison or jail is known to have installed captioned telephones, many using security as an excuse for discrimination. Other facilities ensure that deaf prisoners have access to Free try call pursuant to the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

**ROBERT ROSELI G-57613
A-002-1008-002L
CASTF/SP
P.O. Box 5248
Corcoran, Ca. 93212**

3/14/13

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

Rulemaking Number (12-375)

FCC Mail Room

Dear FCC,

We are deaf inmates currently serving our term at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (CSATF) AT Corcoran, California. There are seven yards of different levels, and there are approximately a total of 40 deaf inmates exclusively using American Signing Language. We have requested a video phone communication system at CSATF and the request has been denied.

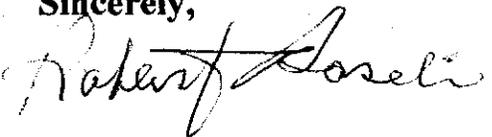
Only TDD has been provided, and it is unusable to us for several reasons. There are numerous of deaf inmates with 2.0 and lower TABE scores (reading/whitening level) therefore they are unable to communicate using TDD equipment. The TDD is not under the prison telephone contract with Global Tel Link (GTL). It costs much more for collect calls on TDD.

Our family members and friends, who are deaf, are no longer using the obsolete TDD system. A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition Subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TDD use is decreasing by 10% per year, and has fell by half over the past seven years. We are not able to communicate with their videophone through TDD, and the relay services provides assistance between TDD to voice telephone only, not deaf to deaf.

The deaf inmates get full communication with American Signing Language (ASL) only through the video phone, not TDD. Typewritten communication is not the equivalent of voice communication for individuals who primary communication is sign language. Unlike most spoken language, ASL does not have a written component.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

Sincerely,



There is evidence in the record to indicate that inmates with hearing disabilities may not have access to ICS (inmate Calling Services) at reasonable rate using TTYs. The record suggests that because the average length of a telephone conversation using a TTY is approximately four times longer than a voice telephone conversation, deaf and hard of hearing inmates who use TTYs have to pay more than their hearing counterparts. The record also suggests that TTY users have had to pay additional fees for connecting to a TTY relay operator. We seek comment on the types of ICS access that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing experience during their incarceration. Where such access to ICS is provided, are the rates the same as those available to those without disability? If the rates differ, what is that difference and what are the explanations for such difference? We note that section 276 (b) (1) (A) specifically exempts "telecommunication relay service call for hearing disabled individuals" from the commission-established "per call compensation plan" ensuring that ICS providers are "fairly compensated." How should the commission take this exemption into account in examining rates?

A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TTY use decreasing by about 10% per year, and has cut in half over the past seven years.

No prison or jail is known to have installed captioned telephones, many using security as an excuse for discrimination. Other facilities ensure that deaf prisoners have access to Free TTY call pursuant to the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

**JEFF BOUSHEE AK-8493
A-002-1004-006U
CASTF/SP
P.O. Box 5248
Corcoran, Ca. 93212**

Received & Inspected 3/14/13
MAR 25 2013
FCC Mail Room

Rulemaking Number (12-375)

Dear FCC,

We are deaf inmates currently serving our term at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (CSATF) AT Corcoran, California. There are seven yards of different levels, and there are approximately a total of 40 deaf inmates exclusively using American Signing Language. We have requested a video phone communication system at CSATF and the request has been denied.

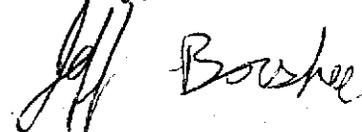
Only TDD has been provided, and it is unusable to us for several reasons. There are numerous of deaf inmates with 2.0 and lower TABE scores (reading/whitening level) therefore they are unable to communicate using TDD equipment. The TDD is not under the prison telephone contract with Global Tel Link (GTL). It costs much more for collect calls on TDD.

Our family members and friends, who are deaf, are no longer using the obsolete TDD system. A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition Subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TDD use is decreasing by 10% per year, and has fell by half over the past seven years. We are not able to communicate with their videophone through TDD, and the relay services provides assistance between TDD to voice telephone only, not deaf to deaf.

The deaf inmates get full communication with American Signing Language (ASL) only through the video phone, not TDD. Typewritten communication is not the equivalent of voice communication for individuals who primary communication is sign language. Unlike most spoken language, ASL does not have a written component.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Sincerely,



There is evidence in the record to indicate that inmates with hearing disabilities may not have access to ICS (inmate Calling Services) at reasonable rate using TTYs. The record suggests that because the average length of a telephone conversation using a TTY is approximately four times longer than a voice telephone conversation, deaf and hard of hearing inmates who use tlys have to pay more than their hearing counterparts. The record also suggests that try user have had to pay additional fees for connecting to a try relay operator. We seek comment on the types of ICS access that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing experience during their incarceration. Where such access to ICS is provided, are the rates the same as those available to those with out disability? If the rates differ, what is that difference and what are the explanations for such difference? We note that section 276 (b) (1) (A) specifically exempts "telecommunication relay service call for hearing disabled individuals" from the commission-established "per call compensation plan" ensuring that ICS providers are "fairly compensated." How should the commission take this exemption into account in examining rates?

A 2012 report from the FCC's try Transition subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that try use decreasing by about 10% per year, and has cut in half over the past seven years.

No prison or jail is known to have installed captioned telephones, many using security as an excuse for discrimination. Other facilities ensure that deaf prisoners have access to Free tly call pursuant to the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

There is evidence in the record to indicate that inmates with hearing disabilities may not have access to ICS (inmate Calling Services) at reasonable rate using TTYs. The record suggests that because the average length of a telephone conversation using a TTY is approximately four times longer than a voice telephone conversation, deaf and hard of hearing inmates who use TTYs have to pay more than their hearing counterparts. The record also suggests that TTY users have had to pay additional fees for connecting to a TTY relay operator. We seek comment on the types of ICS access that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing experience during their incarceration. Where such access to ICS is provided, are the rates the same as those available to those without disability? If the rates differ, what is that difference and what are the explanations for such difference? We note that section 276 (b) (1) (A) specifically exempts "telecommunication relay service call for hearing disabled individuals" from the commission-established "per call compensation plan" ensuring that ICS providers are "fairly compensated." How should the commission take this exemption into account in examining rates?

A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TTY use is decreasing by about 10% per year, and has cut in half over the past seven years.

No prison or jail is known to have installed captioned telephones, many using security as an excuse for discrimination. Other facilities ensure that deaf prisoners have access to Free TTY call pursuant to the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

This is A Public Comment for WC-Docket Number 12-375

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary * From: Jeff. DeBlase ^{Received & Inspected} #5-8739
Federal Communications Commission * 1100 Pike St MAR 25 2013
445 12th St, SW, Room TW-B204 * Huntingdon, Pa FCC Mail Room
Washington, D.C. 20554 * Page 1 of 2 page (3-9-13)
March, 14, 2013

Dear Secretary Dortch,

(#1) It is costing me \$5.15 for a 15 minute phone call. (I have to purchase a phone debit card from prison commissary, at increments of \$10.60 or \$15.90 or 26.50. - The 10.60 credits me a \$10.00 card, the 15.90 credits me a \$15.00 card and 26.50 credits \$25.00)

As this example shows... if I purchase time for \$10.60, I'll have \$10.00 dollars phone time, and I make "one 15 minute call that cost me \$5.15". It leaves me \$4.85, not even enough for a second full 15 min call.

So \$15.90 is a \$15.00 dollar card. If I make 2 calls at \$5.15 per call, that's \$10.30. All I'd have left on the \$15.00 card is \$4.70, not enough for a 3rd 15 min call. I pay an additional 90 cents for a \$15.00 card, why?

why the TAX? →

(#2) This cost is so overbearing at \$5.15 for a 15 minute call. Due largely to there is a \$2.30 Connection Fee for the first minute! Its \$2.00 plus, like \$2.30, and like 21 cents each additional minute of 15 minutes allotted time per one call. (In Federal Prison's they pay ~~only~~ cents for each minute, there is no \$2.00 plus connection fee for a first minute) (i.e. 18 cents a min)

(#3) Disconnection calls happen, not as frequent as in the past. But your call can get cut off due to a glitch in their phone system. And when such happens you have to pay another \$2.00 plus connection fee.

No. of Copies rec'd 1
List ABOVE

Overplate to page 2

(#4) Free calls per month, even one would be a blessing. I have my elderly mother to call, and also my daughter and granddaughter, plus additional family members, sister, two brothers.

If I call my mom once at \$5.15, and then my daughter once in the same week, that's a cost of \$10.30. To call each a second time during the month, that's \$20.60 for 4 calls total. I like most inmates in PA, prison can not afford that, let alone any further calls. I make \$.19 cents an hour 4 1/2 hours a days wages - 5 days a week. I'm lucky to top \$18.00 dollars a month.

So sadly I am unable to call and hear their loving voices, nor give my daughter and granddaughter (6 yrs old) positive loving advice and support. Equally to show my mom love and care, and hear her ever loving words of guidance! (My granddaughter loved my calls, when Grampa says be a good girl for your mommy... she listens and acts on my words.) The children need strong parental communication Need to hear the voices of their parent or grandparent. But the PA Prison Phone system built on GREED of high ~~overpriced~~ ^{OVERPRICED} costs of a call \$5.15, has enabled me for one to make calls home anymore.

Without fair phone rates, families are being torn apart, lost, broken due to such high phone rates (ie) \$2.00 plus connection fee! It's a prison phone abuse system in PA. I beg please help lower these monopolised, overpriced phone fees I am being charged. (They profit millions of dollars a year from the system they have in place, and I loose contact to guide and show love to my family. It's WRONG. (I THANK YOU, JEFF DEBLASE,

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Gregory Thomas BJ-6309

This is a Public comment for WC Docket 12-375

Dear Secretary Dortch

Here at SCI-Huntingdon we need the debit card system.

We need all legal calls to be free to an Attorney's Office.

My wife has a disability she's blind. I should be allowed to call her on her ^{phone} provider plan-price.

We - I made a mistake in one of my previous letters. We pay the following Taxes on Phone cards:

\$ 10.00	60¢ TAX
\$ 15.00	90¢ " "
\$ 25.00	1.50 " "
\$ 50.00	3.00 " "

Its to high for what we get paid from work.
 19¢ hour. 5 days a week. We strongly request NO connection fee 3¢ a minute to 5¢. Free weekends!

Free Disability Plan To Family members who have the Disabilities

And no cost for drop calls.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
 List ABCDE

Thank you for your Professional consideration in this matter.

GT.

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Madam Secretary,

This is a public comment for WC Docket # 12-375.

Well, first off, we here in Michigan are paying eighteen cents a minute for intrastate calls, and twenty cents for an interstate call. I know that the telephone rates here are relatively low compared to other states, but for a man, or woman who has no outside support from family or friends- a fifteen minute call at almost four dollars is a lot of money. We receive pay for the work that we do at the various jobs here in prison, but in the twenty-five years that I have been incarcerated we have not received one pay increase. Most of the jobs here pay an average of about twenty-five dollars a month, and with the latest rash of budget cuts- the food has gotten worse, so most of us are forced to buy a large portion of our food from the prison store. Now in addition to having to buy a lot of the food we eat- we also have to buy all of our own toiletries (soap, toothpaste, ect), and at some institutions we have to buy our own toilet paper.

My mother is on a fixed income, and she pays fifty dollars a month for unlimited calls/text- yet to talk to me for forty-five minutes would cost almost a third of the amount that she pays for her personal telephone. In Michigan

No. of Copies rec'd 0
LIST ABCDE

there is a clause in the law that says, and I am paraphrasing, that the state can only charge those rates that are in keeping with the rates paid by the public, except when it is necessary to purchase up dated equipment. And in addition to this we are paying the phone company over 30% to manage our state wide account. Once the up dated equipment is purchased when does the price for telephone use go down? Why are we paying for new equipment that is not telephone related? And since the phone company is running a surplus- why haven't the prices been lowered?

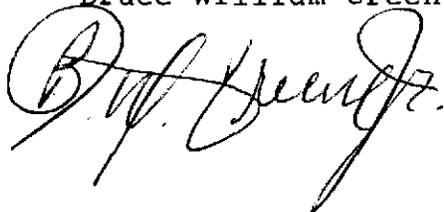
I haven't been able to call home in months because I don't have job, and I only receive money from home about once or twice a year.

I ask that you end this monopoly that the telephone companies have on prisons, and that rules governing rates be changed so that the states won't be allowed, in conjunction with the telephone companies be allowed to gouge prices so that it is a win win situation for everyone except the consumer, and we are still consumers , so why aren't we treated as such?

I thank you for taking the time to read this, and I pray that something can an will be done.

Sincerely,

Bruce William Greene, Jr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce W. Greene, Jr.", written in black ink.

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

MARCH 16, 2013

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

MARVIN JACKSON, JZ 3269
c/o S.C.I. Huntingdon
1100 Pike St.
Huntingdon, PA 16654

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

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

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am writing to voice my support
in this fight for phone justice.

I am currently imprisoned in the Department
of Corrections in Pennsylvania, but I am from
Michigan and so are my love ones who I
struggle to communicate with because of the
extremely expensive phone rates. These phone
rates makes relationship building nearly impossible,
in effect it's hindering a smooth transition
back into society due to the fact of a weakened
support system caused by high phone rates.

Please help in this most urgent situation.

Sincerely,
MARVIN J. JACKSON
Marvin Jackson

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Received & Inspected

3-18-13

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

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

My name is Jeremy Denson and I am currently housed at Bland Correctional Center. I am from Jacksonville, Florida. I haven't been able to call my family because it cost \$16.00 dollars for a 20 minute phone call.

I believe that GTL is doing an extreme injustice to the prison population. They are taking advantage of us. As bad as the economy is, and they charge so much for a phone call! My family can't afford a phone call that expensive. I have been incarcerated for about 6 years and 4 months. I have probably called my family 3 times.

Please help myself as well as others to stop the high cost of phone calls in prison. If it cost less ~~it~~ I would use the phone a lot. Thanks for your time

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0

Sincerely
Jeremy Denson
#1198

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

3-18-13

Dear Secretary Datch,

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375. I am an inmate here at Bland Correctional Center and have to go through Global Tel Link to call Roanoke, Va. which costs seven dollars per call. If I were calling "local" [one hour closer] my calls would cost only ninety cents. Very unfair in my opinion.

I call Roanoke four times a month. I would call every day if the rates were reasonable. I would like to experience a lower rate. One not so expensive.

As an inmate, I make twenty seven cent an hour. I clear around twenty seven dollars a month after fifteen percent is taken out for court fines & "savings". It is impossible for me to buy the items I need and pay for calls too.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Sincerely,
Phil Spencer

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

DEAR Secretary Doatch

This is a public comment for
WC Docket # 12-375 Why is the
F.C.C. allowing these very high phone
rates to be forced on inmates in prison.
I have pre-paid money to speak to my
family. These are the rates charged to
me on a prepaid phone call

\$2.79 Surchage connection fee

46.5¢ minute to speak

16.10% sales tax

This charge system costs around \$15.00
for a 20 minute for my pre-paying for
phone-service. This is robbery plain
and simple. Please help

Paul Herrmann # 1139335

2BN

Bland Correctional Center

256 Bland Farm Road

Bland, VA 24315

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0

To Whom It May Concern,

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

I'm writing on behalf of the phone calls from the prison system. That I get.

1. Cost and experiences.

Monthly 50 to 100 dollars a month and my experiences not very good there's roars and a lot a noise.

2. Charges.

\$5.50 plus tax for 20 mins

3. Dropped calls

They happen ever once and awhile

4. Do you pay twice for reconnected calls
yes

5. Call more frequency.

If calls were cheaper could call mor and a free call every once and a while would help to

6. Disabe callers.

It's hard to hear even with good hearing much less If you have hearing problems

No. of Copies rec'd 0
LIB/ASCD/E

Sincerely
Paul E Cooper

March 15, 2013

The commission's Secretary,
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission.
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Bruce Kelemen CG-8442
PO Box 200
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0200

RE: WC Docket No. 12-375

Our current tty usage have severe limitations. We are able to make direct calls to our deaf or hearing family members who have text devices or video phones. We are required to use the tty relay service, which as you know is very time consuming. In practice out calls are limited to 15 minutes, even though DOC policy states that we are allowed to have two 30 minutes calls per day. SCI-Camp Hill ignores this printed DOC policy. We are told that if we want to go over 15 minutes that we must hang up and call again; but the initial minutes of calls always cost more.

The prison begins counting time from when we connect with relay service, not when we connect with the intended party. Also the prison has computerized system that not only announces that the calls is coming from a correctional facility, but then transmits a series of indecipherable characters, usually in a long stream; this consumes a significant amount of the time that we are in practice allowed (much shorter than written DOC policy). In a typical call of ten minutes, this lengthily interruption would occur at least twice.

I can not call my family members by tty because they use modern telecommunication devices such as; texting or video phones. For most deaf consumers the tty has become outdated. Some years ago we had a video phone set-up here, but it was only 90 days trial. They did not keep the set-up; I do not know why.

I have been trying to get this prison to resolve problems with our current tty equipment and the issues I discuss above; they are now ignoring my concerns. We know that the prisoners at SCI-Ablion and SCI-Graterford are experiencing the same problems with no help forthcoming. This is a series hardship in our need to make calls to families and friends.

From 1993 to 2004, we did have free, non-charged use of the tty; then DOC discontinued our free usage, instituting charge for the calls.

Note: I only recently received a copy of your materials concerning these issues. Another prisoner finally got to the law libaray and made us copies.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kelemen



No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

MAR 25 2013

Dear Secretary DORTCH

FCC Mail Room 3-18-13

This is a public comment for W.C. Docket # 12-375. I am an inmate in the Virginia Prison System. The phone service provided to us is by all standards pure robbery. The cost per minute and the surcharge costs are off all contracts. The old phones that we are forced to use drop calls and one can barely hear the other party. We are forced to pay these high rates if we want to use the phones. There is no system for reimbursement for dropped calls, poor service, or not being able to hear the other party. We do not have access to speak to anyone and when our family tries they are put on wait for long times so they get frustrated and hang up. We have inmates with hearing disabilities that cannot hear on the phones and nobody cares. Tonight I tried to call a friend on his cell phone. The phone service has a billing block now on this number. This is a new scam to force the owner of the cell phone to pre-pay for cell phone privileges to the inmates. I have pre-paid money on my account but they still would not

let me connect. The Fees For Cell Service
Pre-paid Service are
\$2.22 Surchage Connection Fee
1.21 per minute
16% Sales TAX

How can we afford to speak to our
Family and Friends. To call my sister
in California for 20 minutes is over \$15.00
per call. This is robbery but allowed
by the Federal Government because they
have a business license. Fair is fair and
this is NOT fair business practices. Please help
us correct these UN-FAIR RATES

Thank you for your help

PAUL HEUERMAN #1139335
Bid 2BN
BLAND Correctional Center
256 BLAND Farm Road
BLAND, VA. 24315



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Post Office Box 939062 • San Diego, California 92193-9062



William D. Gore, Sheriff

March 15, 2013

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

RATES FOR INTERSTATE INMATE CALLING SERVICES, WC Docket No. 12-375

It has recently come to our attention that the FCC is accepting comments on a proposed rulemaking to regulate inmate telephone calling rates. While we understand the need for fair and consistent rates for inmates and their families, we would also like the FCC to keep in mind the costs we bear to provide inmate telephone services and free phone/video visitation services. Currently, most of our calls are local in nature and are regulated by our state public regulatory authority. We do, however, have occasional contract detainees and out-of-state inmates, where these interstate regulations would impact our revenue. With that said, here are just a few of our costs involved in offering communications services to our inmates: transporting inmates to telephones, recording and monitoring the inmate calls, storing inmate call recordings for use in court, the use of vital space in our buildings to place phones and visitation phones, risk of transporting inmates to the visitation phones located in the front of our facility, dealing with altercations of visiting families using the visitation phones, offering free calling on the booking phones and for indigent inmates, offering free calling to public defenders, litigation from inmates for not allowing them to make calls whenever they choose, free calling to immigrations/embassies/consulates, providing staff to listen in on live phone calls and providing electricity to run and cool these phone systems, providing an armed escort to technicians to install and maintain phones that often are broken by irate inmates and finally, the cost to handle subpoenas for call records and recordings.

When considering the rates to be charged to the inmates, please take into consideration that if our budgets are impacted, then we have to cover these costs by eliminating other non-required programs, such as inmate wellness programs, extended visitation times, free calling programs, reading and continuing educations programs, etc.

Thank you for considering our needs in your decisions.

WILLIAM D. GORE, SHERIFF

Mark P. Elvin, Assistant Sheriff
Detention Services Bureau

Copies rec'd
by ABCDE

0

MPE:fc

DEAR SEC. DORTCH: This is a public
 comment for WC-Docket NO. 12-375

MAR 25 2013

KEVIN L FREEMAN 11470027
 SFCC

Deerfield Dr.

Capron, VA 21360

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in response to the phone campaign for justice. I've been having problems with this issue and having a close knit communications with my family BE CAUSE OF UNREASONABLE COST.

Costs and Experiences: There has been excessive and sometimes unaffordable. To be just 2 hour away from my home and to be subjected to very costly phone prices is not favorable for me nor my family. Living in a cell phone tower, call are not afforded through these channels.

Call Charges - My family pay \$8.00 for a call that's within a 45 to hour distance. \$1.80 connection charge and 20 cent per minute. No live charge to have account set up charge to add money to my debt phone account.

Drop Call - At least (3) times per week for no reason at all and have to pay connection fee to call back with same pay rate all over again.

Call Frequency - I would like to call as much as possible due to fact that I have new-born daughter and family members who support me, but is limited because of phone excessive cost.

Free Calls - It would give me the opportunity to build and have a bond with my family and kids and help them with this costly Phone System.

Disabilities Access - Disabilities inmates have no access to phones because there's no system set up to accommodate this issue. And need to be address.

DAVID LOPEZ AF-8195
A-002-2013-006L
CASTF/SP
P.O. Box 5248
Corcoran, Ca. 93212

3/14/13

Received & Inspected

MAR 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Rulemaking Number (12-375)

Dear FCC,

We are deaf inmates currently serving our term at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (CSATF) AT Corcoran, California. There are seven yards of different levels, and there are approximately a total of 40 deaf inmates exclusively using American Signing Language. We have requested a video phone communication system at CSATF and the request has been denied.

Only TDD has been provided, and it is unusable to us for several reasons. There are numerous of deaf inmates with 2.0 and lower TABE scores (reading/whitening level) therefore they are unable to communicate using TDD equipment. The TDD is not under the prison telephone contract with Global Tel Link (GTL). It costs much more for collect calls on TDD.

Our family members and friends, who are deaf, are no longer using the obsolete TDD system. A 2012 report from the FCC's TTY Transition Subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that TDD use is decreasing by 10% per year, and has fell by half over the past seven years. We are not able to communicate with their videophone through TDD, and the relay services provides assistance between TDD to voice telephone only, not deaf to deaf.

The deaf inmates get full communication with American Signing Language (ASL) only through the video phone, not TDD. Typewritten communication is not the equivalent of voice communication for individuals who primary communication is sign language. Unlike most spoken language, ASL does not have a written component.

Copies rec'd
List ASCDE

Sincerely,

David Lopez

Please Copy
MAIL

There is evidence in the record to indicate that inmates with hearing disabilities may not have access to ICS inmate Calling Services) at reasonable rate using TTYs. The record suggests that because the average length of a telephone conversation using a TTY is approximately four times longer than a voice telephone conversation, deaf and hard of hearing inmates who use toys have to pay more than their hearing counterparts. The record also suggests that try user have had to pay additional fees for connecting to a try relay operator. We seek comment on the types of ICS access that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing experience during their incarceration. Where such access to ICS is provided, are the rates the same as those available to those with out disability? If the rates differ, what is that difference and what are the explanations for such difference? We note that section 276 (b) (1) (A) specifically exempts “telecommunication relay service call for hearing disabled individuals” from the commission-established “per call compensation plan” ensuring that ICS providers are “fairly compensated.” How should the commission take this exemption into account in examining rates?

A 2012 report from the FCC’s try Transition subgroup of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee indicates that try use decreasing by about 10% per year, and has cut in half over the past seven years.

No prison or jail is known to have installed captioned telephones, many using security as an excuse for discrimination. Other facilities ensure that deaf prisoners have access to Free try call pursuant to the Telecommunication Act of 1996.