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FCC Mail Room

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To whom it may concern:

I recently read an article in Prison Legal News, which indicated that the FCC has capped the phone rates that service providers can charge the incarcerated. According to the article, the caps are .21 per minute for debit calls and .25 per minute for collect calls. Global Tel-Link is currently violating these caps in Indiana.

GTL is currently charging prisoners .24 per minute, plus tax, for debit calls. In the past month, the calls spiked from $4.80 for a 20-minute call to $5.57 for a 20-minute call. When I inquired about the price increase, I was told that "For the past year GTL was not charging taxes on the calls. Once this was found out it was corrected. They were charged for last billing cycle taxes. They can call 1-877-650-4249 for any questions about the taxes." GTL is retroactively charging prisoners and their families the taxes. If $50.00 is placed into a debit account, the back taxes are deducted from that money before any further calls are allowed.

Since GTL is charging more than the .21 per minute cap, are these "taxes" legitimate? Are there limits to the amount of taxes that GTL can charge? What prevents GTL from charging exorbitant amounts of taxes to recover money the business lost as a result of the implementation of the rate caps?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Sincerely,

John T. Vance