

Comment on reform of prison phone call charges

I, Sharon Bourke, hereby file my statement of support of reform of prison phone call charges to include intrastate phone charges for the following reasons as state in the December 2013 *Prison Legal News*:

"High prison phone rates. . . create a financial barrier to communication between prisoners and their families due to the costs associated with ICS calls.

"These rates discourage communication between inmates and their families and larger support networks, which negatively impact the millions of children with an incarcerated parent, contribute to the high rate of recidivism in our nation's correctional facilities, and increase the costs of our justice system," the FCC observed."

I further hereby state my support for eliminating from the cost of intrastate prison phone call charges any amount calculated for commission fees paid to phone company providers (ICSs) by correctional facilities.