

• Joseph Baynes, AF-7102
SCI DALLAS
1000 FOLLIES ROAD
DALLAS, PA 18612

Received & Inspected

AUG 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

August 16, 2013

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
CONSUMER CENTER
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

DEAR CONSUMER CENTER:

This letter is being forwarded to your office as a public inquiry regarding informal complaints and questions concerning telephone services and rates provided to prisoners.

In several newspaper sources, the Wall Street Journal-Monday 12, 2013, there were printed articles relating to a recent 'cap' authorized and issued by your Department for debit paid and collect placed calls to friends and family members of prisoners. It included in its printed position that prisoners could file complaints and seek refunds, where it can be found that Pennsylvania since the installation and activation of such phone services under companies like Global Tel*Link, have been being charged doubled, if not more, than your current going cap- since 1996 until this ongoing present date, still exceed 12 cents / 14 cents per minute for regular and collect calls.

Therefore, this letter is being submitted in the attempts to obtain necessary and appropriate forms for complaints and seeking refunds in these matters. Your assistance and/or referral to above inquiry will be truly appreciated.

Thank you for your time, services and for your understanding cooperation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Baynes

Received & Inspected

AUG 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

DARRELL REESE DS-9336
SCI DALLAS
1000 FOLLIES ROAD
DALLAS, PA 18612

August 16, 2013

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
CONSUMER CENTER
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

DEAR CONSUMER CENTER:

This letter is being forwarded to your office as a public inquiry regarding informal complaints and questions concerning telephone services and rates provided to prisoners.

In several newspaper sources, the Wall Street Journal-Monday 12, 2013, there were printed articles relating to a recent 'cap' authorized and issued by your Department for debit paid and collect placed calls to friends and family members of prisoners. It included in its printed position that prisoners could file complaints and seek refunds, where it can be found that Pennsylvania since the installation and activation of such phone services under companies like Global Tel*Link, have been being charged doubled, if not more, than your current going cap- since 1996 until this ongoing present date, still exceed 12 cents / 14 cents per minute for regular and collect calls.

Therefore, this letter is being submitted in the attempts to obtain necessary and appropriate forms for complaints and seeking refunds in these matters. Your assistance and/or referral to above inquiry will be truly appreciated.

Thank you for your time, services and for your understanding cooperation.

Sincerely, Darrell Reese

SCI DALLAS
1000 FOLLIES ROAD
DALLAS, PENNA. 18612

August 16, 2013

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
CONSUMER CENTER
445 12th ST., SW
WASHINGTON, DC. 20554

FCC Mail Room

DEAR CONSUMER CENTER:

This letter is being forwarded to your office as a public inquiry regarding informal complaints, and question concerning telephone services and rates provided to prisoners.

In several newspaper sources, the "Wall Street Journal August 12, 2013" there were printed articles relating to recent "cap" authorized and issued by your Department for debit paid and collect placed calls to friends and family members of prisoners. It included in this printed article, that prisoners could file complaints, and seek refunds, where it can be found that since Pennsylvania installation and activation of the current phone services, under companies such as Global Tel*Link. Have charged prisoners love ones double in rates, if not more than the current going "cap rate". This has been the case every since the introduction of the present phone system. To date the rate per-call still exceeds 12 cents/ 14 cents per minute for a pre-paid and collect calling.

Therefore, this letter is being submitted in the attempt to obtain necessary, and appropriate forms for complaints seeking refunds in these matters.

Your assistance and/or referral to the above inquiry will be truly appreciated.

Thank you for your time, service, and coopreation.

Sincerely,

Aaron Blue

Agency Caps Inmates' Phone Rates

By Joe Palazzolo

The Federal Communications Commission voted Friday to cap rates for prisoners' telephone calls, ending an era in which inmates were charged as much as 89 cents a minute on top of setup fees that ran as high as \$3.95 a call.

The commission's 2-1 vote caps interstate charges for prepaid calls at 21 cents per minute and collect calls at 25 cents per minute. Those are still high at a time when unlimited long distance offerings are commonplace, but prisoners can file challenges and seek refunds for rates exceeding 12 cents per minute and 14 cents per minute for regular and collect calls, according to the FCC.

The move is the culmination of a process that began more than a decade ago when Martha Wright, a Washington, D.C. grandmother, filed a petition with the agency because she wanted to speak with her grandson, who was serving a murder sentence outside the district, without incurring \$18 in charges for a five-minute phone call.

Telecommunications companies and law-enforcement groups had argued the higher rates were reasonable in light of the costs of oversight, security and technology required to monitor calls and analyze recordings.

But the FCC majority said the rates reflected agreements in which states looked for the biggest commission rather than the best deal for consumers, and that the burden was largely borne by inmates' families.

"Their wait is finally over," said acting FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, invoking the words of singer Sam Cooke. "It's been a long, long time coming, but change has finally come."

Prisoners' rights groups say the high rates stemmed from so-called site commissions—payments that phone-service providers agree to pay to the states in order to win business from



Bethany Fraser, a family member affected by the high telephone rates charged to prison inmates, listens to Friday's Federal Communications Commission hearing in Washington.

prisons. Prisoners have argued unsuccessfully in federal court that exclusive arrangements between prisons and service providers restrict their phone choices and drive up rates, chilling their speech in violation of the First Amendment.

Last year, the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the First Amendment claims of an Arkansas prisoner who said a 10-minute interstate call cost him \$10.43, plus taxes and other charges.

The Eighth Circuit case highlighted a contract between the Arkansas Department of Corrections and Global Tel*Link, in which the company turned over 45% of its gross revenue to the prison system.

According to a study by Prison Legal News, a prisoner-advocacy group, states receive on average 45% of revenue from prisoners' calls.

The FCC decision also barred service providers from adjusting their interstate rates to account for such commissions, and from charging higher rates for those who use telecommunications relay services because of hearing or speech disabilities.

A spokesman for Global Tel*Link, which according to its website, provides service to about 50% of inmates nationwide, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The company is owned by New York-based private-equity firm American Securities LLC, which didn't respond to a request for comment.

CenturyLink Inc., another major service provider, declined to comment. Another provider, Securus Technologies Inc., didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Inmate calling services are typically limited to collect or

debit-based calling from pay phones. The new regulations apply only to interstate communications, but the commission has asked for public comment on revising rates for intrastate calls. Some service providers in meetings with FCC staff said their business could become unsustainable if the FCC lowered interstate rates without addressing rate caps set by the states for calls within their borders.

Commissioner Ajit Pai, who dissented from the ruling, said he supported regulation of inmate calling rates but questioned whether the FCC had the resources to sort legitimate costs from others.

"To put it simply, I'm concerned the order will prove very difficult to administer and have unintended consequences," he said.

—Ashby Jones
contributed to this article.

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AUG 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

SCI DALLAS
1000 FOLLIES ROAD
DALLAS, PA. 18612

August 19, 2013

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
CONSUMER CENTER
445 12TH St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

DEAR CONSUMER CENTER,

This letter is being ~~for~~ forwarded to your office as a public inquiry regarding informal complaints and questions concerning telephone services and rates provided to prisoners.

In several newspaper sources, The Wall Street Journal - Monday 12, 2013, there were printed articles relating to a recent "cap" authorized and issued by your Department for debit paid and collect placed calls to friends and family members of prisoners. It included in its printed position that prisoners could file complaints and seek refunds where it can be found that Pennsylvania, since the installation and activation of such phone services under companies like Global Tel*Link, have been being charged doubled, if not more, than your current going cap - since 1996 until this ongoing present date, still exceed 12 cents / 14 cents per minute for regular collect calls.

Therefore, this letter is being submitted in the attempts to obtain necessary and appropriate forms for complaints and seeking refunds in these matters. Your assistance and/or referral to above inquiry will be truly appreciater.

→

1000 Follies Road
Dallas, PA 18612-0286

Received & Inspected

AUG 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

August 22, 2013

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

Recently there was a press release indicating that on Friday, August 9, the FCC voted to cap rates for prison interstate telephone calls.

I am including a copy of the article which reported this decision.

I am respectfully requesting a copy of the FCC's 2-1 decision.

Additionally, the article indicated that affected parties could file a claim for reimbursement of excessive costs for the interstate calls. I am requesting any available information (such as a claim form) indicating how one may initiate the process for recoupment of excessive fees/costs, etc.

Much thanks for your office's attention to my inquiry.

Sincerely,

Wilson Leonard
Claimant, SCI-Dallas

attachment/

Agency Caps Inmates' Phone Rates

By JOE PALAZZOLO

The Federal Communications Commission voted Friday to cap rates for prisoners' telephone calls, ending an era in which inmates were charged as much as 89 cents a minute on top of setup fees that ran as high as \$3.95 a call.

The commission's 2-1 vote caps interstate charges for pre-paid calls at 21 cents per minute and collect calls at 25 cents per minute. Those are still high at a time when unlimited long distance offerings are commonplace, but prisoners can file challenges and seek refunds for rates exceeding 12 cents per minute and 14 cents per minute for regular and collect calls, according to the FCC.

The move is the culmination of a process that began more than a decade ago when Martha Wright, a Washington, D.C., grandmother, filed a petition with the agency because she wanted to speak with her grandson, who was serving a murder sentence outside the district, without incurring \$18 in charges for a five-minute phone call.

Telecommunications companies and law-enforcement groups had argued the higher rates were reasonable in light of the costs of oversight, security and technology required to monitor calls and analyze recordings.

But the FCC majority said the rates reflected agreements in which states looked for the biggest commission rather than the best deal for consumers, and that the burden was largely borne by inmates' families.

"Their wait is finally over," said acting FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, invoking the words of singer Sam Cooke. "It's been a long, long time coming, but change has finally come."

Prisoners' rights groups say the high rates stemmed from so-called site commissions—payments that phone-service providers agree to pay to the states in order to win business from



Bethany Fraser, a family member affected by the high telephone rates charged to prison inmates, listens to Friday's Federal Communications Commission hearing in Washington.

prisons. Prisoners have argued unsuccessfully in federal court that exclusive arrangements between prisons and service providers restrict their phone choices and drive up rates, chilling their speech in violation of the First Amendment.

Last year, the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the First Amendment claims of an Arkansas prisoner who said a 10-minute interstate call cost him \$10.43, plus taxes and other charges.

The Eighth Circuit case highlighted a contract between the Arkansas Department of Corrections and Global Tel*Link, in which the company turned over 45% of its gross revenue to the prison system.

According to a study by Prison Legal News, a prisoner-advocacy group, states receive on average 45% of revenue from prisoners' calls.

The FCC decision also barred service providers from adjusting their interstate rates to account for such commissions, and from charging higher rates for those who use telecommunications relay services because of hearing or speech disabilities.

A spokesman for Global Tel*Link, which according to its website, provides service to about 50% of inmates nationwide, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The company is owned by New York-based private-equity firm American Securities LLC, which didn't respond to a request for comment.

CenturyLink Inc., another major service provider, declined to comment. Another provider, Securus Technologies Inc., didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Inmate calling services are typically limited to collect or

debit-based calling from pay phones. The new regulations apply only to interstate communications, but the commission has asked for public comment on revising rates for intrastate calls. Some service providers in meetings with FCC staff said their business could become unsustainable if the FCC lowered interstate rates without addressing rate caps set by the states for calls within their borders.

Commissioner Ajit Pai, who dissented from the ruling, said he supported regulation of inmate calling rates but questioned whether the FCC had the resources to sort legitimate costs from others.

"To put it simply, I'm concerned the order will prove very difficult to administer and have unintended consequences," he said.

—Ashby Jones
contributed to this article.

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AUG 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

DYRELL STEELE
Inst. #(KR-4034)
SCI @ DALLAS
1000 Follies Road
Dallas, Pa. 18612-0286
August 22, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman:

Recently there was a press release indicating that on Friday, August 6, 2013 the FCC voted to cap rates for Prisons interstate telephone calls.

I am respectfully requesting a copy of the FCC's 2-1 decision.

Additionally, the article indicated that affected parties could file a claim for reimbursement of excessive costs for the interstate calls. I am requesting any available information ("such as a claim Form") indicating how I can initiate the process for recoupment of excessive fees/costs, etc. placed upon me by way of being a Prisoner in a State Correctional Facility and being charged excessive fees/costs for use of interstate telephone calls.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Dyrell Steele
DYRELL STEELE
Claimant

cc:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments

445 12th street, SW
Washington D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG 28 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski,

My name is Maurice Hinton
#306145. I am writing you in concern to the
high cost of the prison Phone Calls. This is a
public comment for the wright petition
(cc Pocket # 96-128) The most convenient
and cheapest way for inmates to stay in contact
with their Families, Friends, And Loved Ones is
Through Phone Calls. Last year phone rates were
\$1.50 per call and this year the phone rates
jumped to nearly double! This issue is a problem
and concern since the state Doesn't Pay Inmate
Enough Money To Purchase Food, Hygiene, shoes,
Clothes, Etc. For instance the average monthly
salary for a ~~porter~~ porter, Janitorial, work
Custodial maintenance and Clean up Jobs
Roughly only Pay \$25.00. Where as The price to
make a Phone call is around \$3.00 This is 12%
of the money that we Earn on a monthly Basis

ON BACK side

It is very crucial that we are able to call our children, wives, and families at least once a week. This will lessen the worry and stress that we go through during our Incarceration Period. Even most correctional officers agree with us on this point because it makes their job easier. I would be grateful if you could make the phone call rates cheaper. Thank you very kindly in advance for your time and anticipated cooperation in this matter.

1000 Follies Road
Dallas, PA 18612-0286

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Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Much thanks for your office's attention to my inquiry.

Sincerely,

James A. Green
FT1052.

Claimant, SCI-Dallas

attachment/

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—Ashby Jones
contributed to this article.



Bethany Fraser, a family member affected by the high telephone rates charged to prison inmates, listens to Friday's Federal Communications Commission hearing in Washington.

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Chairman
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Much thanks for your office's attention to my inquiry.

Sincerely,

Isaac Overstreet - FP5027
Claimant, SCI-Dallas

attachment/

SCI DALLAS
1000 FOLLIES ROAD
DALLAS, PA 18612

August 16, 2013

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CONSUMER CENTER
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Thank you for your time, services and for your understanding cooperation.

Sincerely, *Isaac Overstreet - FP5027*