

# #PHONEJUSTICE

## What's at Stake?



After years of mobilization by the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice—a diverse coalition of organizations across the United States—the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will take action. New FCC rules will cap the rates of all calls from prison, jails, and detention facilities; ban most fees; and pave the way for additional reforms. Prison phone justice means families are better connected, communities are stronger, and our nation is safer.

## IMPACT of October 22, 2015, FCC Ruling on Prison Phone Rates

### Before

Comprehensive Reform

### After

Comprehensive Reform



Up to  
**\$0.43**  
PER MINUTE

Price of calls from state and federal facilities

Capped at  
**\$0.11**  
PER MINUTE



Up to  
**\$1.00**  
PER MINUTE

Price of calls from jails

Capped at  
**\$.14 – \$.22**  
PER MINUTE  
Depending on the size of the jail



**\$3.95**

Charged multiple times in one call when the signal is dropped

Connection Fees

**Banned**



Up to  
**\$10**

Payment by phone, website, or live operator

Capped at  
**\$3** by phone or website  
**\$5.95** by live operator



Up to  
**93.9%**

of the cost of the call is a commission given to the facility in return for the phone contract

Commissions

Commissions  
**Discouraged**

but not directly banned



**1 MIN & 15 MIN**

calls are the same price, depending on the contact

Flat rate calling

flat rate calling  
**Banned**



Up to  
**\$1.00**  
PER MINUTE

Video visits can cost up to \$1 per minute and replace in-person visits

Video visits

**FCC seeks further comment**

on the video industry and other advanced communications services



More than a dozen charges including  
**\$10** fees for refunds

Other fees

**Banned**

**\$2.50** a month for "network infrastructure"



**4%** charge for validation

### Sources:

Federal Communications Commission, Fact Sheet: Ensuring Just, Reasonable, and Fair Rates for Inmate Calling Services, September 30, 2015.  
Prison Policy Initiative, FCC Commissioners Reveal Details of Their Proposal to Protect All Families of Incarcerated People, Peter Wagner, October 1, 2015.  
Prison Policy Initiative, Screening Out Family Time: The For-Profit Video Visitation Industry in Prisons and Jails, Bernadette Rabuy and Peter Wagner, January 2015.

