

**From:** Susan Schwartzkopf [sschwartzkopf@prisonlegalnews.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 10:10 AM  
**To:** 'Paul Wright'  
**Subject:** FW: End Prison Phone Kickbacks  
 This is follow up from the email letter sent yesterday.

**From:** Hodgdon, Marcey [mailto:Marcey.Hodgdon@ahs.state.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 9:55 AM  
**To:** sschwartzkopf@prisonlegalnews.org  
**Cc:** ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us  
**Subject:** RE: End Prison Phone Kickbacks

Ms. Schwartzkopf:

In September 2010 the Department of Corrections entered into a new contract for the provision of inmate commissary and telephone services as well as an inmate accounting system. During contract negotiations the Department was able to obtain lower connection and per minute charges on all types of inmate calls. The reduction in call rates did not affect the commission percentage, which is one of the two revenues funding the Inmate Recreation Fund (the other revenue being inmate commissary sale commissions). Please see the table below for a rate comparison as well as an example highlighting the savings for inmates and their families/friends for an average 15 minute telephone call.

Current Contract Call Rates - Without Taxes						15 minute call scenario - excluding taxes				
Connect Fees	Local	Intralata	Interlata	Interstate	Int'l	Local	Intralata	Interlata	Interstate	
Collect	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	N/A	Collect	\$2.30	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50
Prepaid	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$3.00	Prepaid	\$1.90	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Debit	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00	Debit	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Rate/Min										
Collect	\$0.07	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.15	N/A					
Prepaid	\$0.06	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.50					
Debit	\$0.05	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.50					

Previous Contract Call Rates - Without Taxes						15 minute call scenario - excluding taxes				
Connect Fees	Local	Intralata	Interlata	Interstate	Int'l	Local	Intralata	Interlata	Interstate	
Collect	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$3.25	N/A	Collect	\$2.48	\$4.85	\$4.85	\$10.75
Prepaid	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$3.25	\$3.95	Prepaid	\$2.45	\$4.85	\$4.85	\$10.75
Debit	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$1.80	Debit	\$1.65	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$2.85
Rate/Min						SAVINGS				
Collect	\$0.072	\$0.23	\$0.23	\$0.50	N/A	Collect	7.26%	27.84%	27.84%	67.44%
Prepaid	\$0.07	\$0.23	\$0.23	\$0.50	\$0.89	Prepaid	22.45%	48.45%	48.45%	76.74%
Debit	\$0.06	\$0.14	\$0.14	\$0.14	\$0.48	Debit	39.39%	29.82%	29.82%	29.82%

Please note commissions from inmate telephone and commissary services are the only funding streams for the Inmate Recreation fund. Our current contract has specific language regarding bi-annual reviews of price points and commissions geared toward reducing costs to inmates and their families/friends while maintaining the funding sustainability of the Inmate Recreation program.

Thank you for your feedback.  
Marcey

*Marcey Hodgdon, Financial Manager II*  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Schwartzkopf [mailto:sschwartzkopf@prisonlegalnews.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 5:03 PM  
To: EXE - Webmail  
Subject: End Prison Phone Kickbacks

I am writing to ask that you end kickbacks and price gouging by the U.S. Prison Telephone Industry. I believe that families and communities should come before profiteering and kickbacks.

Contracts for prison phone service should be bid on the basis of who can provide the lowest price to the consumer, not which company provides the highest commission to our state government.

Our communities are disadvantaged when prisoners are unable to maintain family ties that will help them succeed post-release, and I ask you to act now.

Susan Schwartzkopf  
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