



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Approves Incarcerated People's Communications Services Reforms

Action Will Mitigate Safety and Security Risks, Set Interim Rate Caps

WASHINGTON, October 28, 2025—The Federal Communications Commission today took action to revisit the framework established by the FCC's 2024 Incarcerated People's Communications Services (IPCS) Report and Order. Today's action aims to ensure that the FCC is achieving the statutory goals Congress codified in the Martha Wright-Reed Act, while also addressing the negative, unintended consequences that have flowed from the prior FCC's approach—namely, unacceptable risks to safety and security as well as reductions in the availability of calling services.

In July, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau temporarily waived the deadlines for complying with the rate cap, site commission, and per-minute pricing rules adopted in the 2024 Order. This Order allowed IPCS providers and facilities time to address implementation challenges and preserved the status quo while the Commission began to assess potential changes to its IPCS rules based on developments in the record following the 2024 Order's adoption.

Today's action will supersede the Commission's previous rate cap calculations by using only billed minutes to determine the Commission's rate caps, incorporating all safety and security measure expenses that IPCS providers reported incurring, and creating an additional rate cap tier for extremely small jails. Specifically, this action will set, on an interim basis, rate caps for IPCS that allow for the full inclusion of safety and security costs to correctional facilities and IPCS providers, pending further consideration by the FCC. It will also create a uniform \$0.02 per minute interim rate additive separate from the revised caps to ensure recovery of correctional facilities' costs of administering service. Additionally, it will set a new uniform compliance date for providers, including for the Commission's ban on site commissions, while seeking further comment on these issues in the FNPRM portion of the item.

Action by the Commission October 28, 2025 by Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 25-75). Chairman Carr and Commissioner Trusty approving. Commissioner Gomez dissenting. Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty issuing separate statements.

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