

July 8, 2012

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PRISON LEGAL SERVICES:

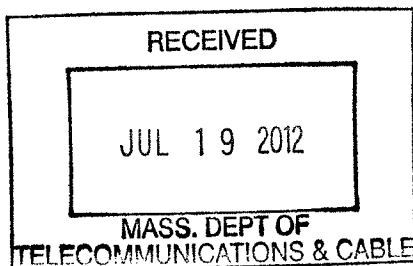
Regarding the upcoming public hearing concerning the usage of telephones in prison:

I was doing time in Maine when, in late 1996, that prison system went to the current format for making calls from prison. Up until that time, were we subject to collect calls from prison in which government had no say nor required previous approval. At that point, having to heavily pay for the new system, some of the profits going to the DOC for keeping track of whom I called, I opted never to use the phones again. Now, sixteen years later, I still hold that opinion.

If I did make phone calls from this MTC, a "civil prison," so to speak, I am certain I would have numerous complaints concerning pricing, dropped calls, clarity of connections, etc. I hear other inmates/residents mention these quite a bit. But my initial complaint still stands, and until that is changed, I will not use any phone where I am paying for:

- 1) The "opportunity" to be listened to or recorded.
- 2) The prior approval (or denial) by DOC staff as to whom I call, with a list of approved family, friends and lawyers all now part of a system designed to collect data on those people I might call. Who the hell is government to keep track, with prior approval, of anyone I might want to call? It's none of government's business; if a person wants to accept a phone call and speak to me, then so be it.
- 3) Although connection prices and minute prices have fallen due to lawsuits and competition, I find the price for a connection to be exorbitant. The price in society for phone calls or Internet service is competitive to the point where calling worldwide is in pennies, not dollars.

Sincerely,



Richard Felt
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