



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inmate phone system rates decrease

(Pierre, S.D.)- Lower phone rates and a new feature will soon be in effect for family and friends of state prison inmates.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections recently renewed an agreement with Value Added Communications (VAC), the company that provides phone service to state prison inmates. The DOC negotiated lower rates for debit and prepaid calls in the agreement, the third consecutive contract renewal in which rates were lowered. The new rates take effect May 16, 2011.

Call Type	Current Rate	New Rate	Percentage Change
Debit and Prepaid Calling			
Local Call	\$1.20	\$1.00	-16.67%
Intralata Set Up Fee	\$1.45	\$1.25	-13.79%
Intralata Cost Per Minute	\$0.12	\$0.10	-16.67%
Interlata/Interstate Set Up Fee	\$2.00	\$1.50	-25.00%

Rates for collect calls will not change under the renewal agreement.

Inmates can access telephones at the facility at which they are housed to make phone calls, subject to the rules of the facility. Inmates can make either collect or debit calls from prison to a limited number of family and friends.

The debit account system was established in 2002, allowing family and friends to pre-pay for phone calls from inmates. More than 93-percent of the phone calls made by inmates utilize the debit system.

A new feature allowing family and friends to leave a voicemail for inmates will soon be available. For a nominal fee, family and friends will be able to leave a 60-second long message for the inmate, who will be able to check the messages twice per day at no charge.