



Carr Acts to Address Unintended Consequences of 2024 IPCS Order

Action Will Support Continued Availability of Calling Services While Mitigating Public Safety and Security Risks

WASHINGTON, June 30, 2025—Today, FCC Chairman Brendan Carr announced that the agency’s Wireline Competition Bureau has taken action to address the negative, unintended consequences stemming from the Commission’s 2024 decision on Incarcerated People’s Communications Services (IPCS). By issuing a waiver of certain compliance deadlines, the FCC will both support the continued availability of IPCS for incarcerated people and promote both public safety and security interests.

As a result of this waiver decision, the FCC’s 2021 Order rate cap, site commission, and per-minute pricing rules will apply until April 1, 2027, unless the Commission sets an alternative date.

Chairman Carr issued the following statement:

“The FCC has worked for years to ensure that incarcerated people have access to calling services at reasonable rates. And I have long supported FCC efforts to reform the provision of IPCS. After all, the FCC not only has a statutory obligation with respect to the provision of these services, but the evidence is clear that staying in touch with family and loved ones can benefit everyone and reduce recidivism.

“At the same time, the FCC has struggled over the years to strike the right balance with its rules governing IPCS. Indeed, courts have repeatedly turned back past FCC efforts on various grounds. And evidence since the FCC’s most recent, 2024 effort to adopt rules governing IPCS shows that the agency’s decision is leading to negative, unintended consequences.

“For one, the record shows that a number of institutions are or soon will be limiting the availability of IPCS due to concerns with the FCC’s 2024 decision. For another, there is concerning evidence that the 2024 decision does not allow providers and institutions to properly consider public safety and security interests when facilitating these services.

“Today’s waiver not only supports the law enforcement community’s efforts to build systems that work for our prisons and jails, but addresses implementation challenges of the 2024 Order—in particular, dropping the rate caps too low to cover the required safety measures and before state and local governments could secure alternative funding. With today’s actions, we’re helping to ensure that communications are more readily available and that important safety and security protocols are maintained. This includes steps that can lead to broader adoption of beneficial public safety tools that include advanced AI and machine learning.”

Additional Background:

The FCC's 2024 IPCS Order adopted rules that expanded the Commission's regulation of IPCS in response to the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022. Today's [action](#) temporarily waives the deadlines for complying with the rate cap, site commission, and per-minute pricing rules adopted in the 2024 Order. This effort will allow IPCS providers and facilities time to address implementation challenges and will preserve the status quo while the Commission assesses potential changes to its IPCS rules based on the record that has developed.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*