

MARYLAND FAMILIES ON THE COST OF PRISON



*“I have two children who love and care for their father as I do. To keep them connected is costly. I add money on the phone weekly to keep my family in touch, but at times I have to say no, and that hurts. I say no because I am a single mother, and I am unable to take care of them while also paying for calls” - **Deja Johnson, wife of a currently incarcerated loved one***

*“My mother was an elderly woman on a fixed income and could not afford to pay for phone calls at the time. My mother was dying of cancer, and I was unable to speak to her before she passed away due to the phone system and not wanting to be a burden on my family.” - **Albert Brown, a formerly incarcerated loved one***

*“Communication is an essential lifeline to families and friends of people in prison. If I could pay less to support my son while he’s in prison, it means I might be able to do a little bit more for his children on the outside.” - **Michele Kennedy-Kouadio, mother of a currently incarcerated loved one***

*“It seems like you’re being punished with every single call that comes through like someone is making it hard.” - **Penni and Alan Barnett, parents of a formerly incarcerated loved one***

*“My little brother is also incarcerated. Financially, my mother must make a choice at times of who she is going to talk to, and whether she can talk with any of us at all.” - **Jerome Collier, a currently incarcerated loved one***

*“Many times, I have been unable to call home and check on my family members. My mother has been diagnosed with early signs of dementia, and my father is the primary caretaker. He has a limited income and is unable to keep money on the phone.” - **Corey Downs, a currently incarcerated loved one***

HELP CONNECT FAMILIES