

## Tablets

DOC has implemented tablets in our facilities. Global Tel Link (GTL), our prison phone service provider, is providing the tablets at **NO COST** to the state.

The implementation process was complex. GTL worked for months to finalize the necessary infrastructure work at each of the DOC facilities.



Tablets were first distributed to inmates at the Women's Prison in Pierre May 1, 2017. The tablets were then phased in at the other DOC facilities.

A key component for the DOC is being able to have the inmates utilize the tablets for educational courses. We are developing a process to deliver education services, including GED coursework, this way.

The tablets will also be utilized for program information, legal research, facility rules (including Inmate Living Guide), notices on policy revisions, facility activity schedules and inmate commissary orders, etc.

Other benefits of the tablets include allowing inmates to maintain family ties, allowing inmates to have access to technology while incarcerated so they are better prepared upon release from prison; and maximizing staff resources, allowing for them to concentrate on other, more pressing issues.

It's important to note that inmates do not have access to wireless Internet. Inmates are not able to access social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. The tablet devices include built-in security features and run on a secure network that is maintained and monitored by GTL.

As with everything in our facilities, security is a priority. The tablets have transparent plastic cases to ensure they are not being used to hide contraband. The chargers and earbuds are also transparent.

Other states/counties that utilize the tablets have found it reduces stress and conflict, thus they have fewer instances of inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff violence.



Inmates will be able to make phone calls to family and friends on the tablets as well as send and receive messages. There are fees for these services. Telephone rates and fees will remain the same as those that apply to the telephones located and available in the housing units (<http://doc.sd.gov/about/fag/telephone.aspx>). It costs \$0.25/message. Use of the tablet for these purposes is completely voluntary. All incoming and outgoing messages are subject to inspection and screening and calls will continue to be recorded and monitored by staff.

The tablets also offer subscriptions to services that provide access to books, music and games. The inmate's family members can set up accounts with GTL to pay for those services. Subscriptions to these services are effective for 30 day increments.

Rates for services

Games \$5.99/30 day subscription + applicable sales tax

Music \$19.99/30 day subscription + applicable sales tax

E-Books \$3.99/30 day subscription + applicable sales tax

The tablets also have other features such as a calculator, document link (in order to view the policies/memos), and access to Lexis/Nexis for legal research. Other features such as a dictionary may be made available in the future.

Inmates utilizing the tablets must sign a user agreement stating they are responsible for any costs, liability, or damages to the tablet through neglect or abuse and that they are responsible for ensuring the tablet and charger are not lost, stolen or damaged.

Inmates that elect not to have a tablet issued to them or have them taken away for disciplinary reasons will be able to use tablet kiosks located within the facility to access certain approved services, such as telephone and messaging services and review of posted information.

The link to more tablet information on GTL's website is at:

<http://www.gtl.net/correctional-facility-services/inmate-services/handheld-devices/>.