



**Main Office:** 222 East Central Parkway • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1225  
**Neighborhood Center:** 237 Wm. Howard Taft • Cincinnati, Ohio 45219  
**General Information:** (513) 946-1000  
**General Information TDD:** (513) 946-1295  
**FAX:** (513) 946-2250  
[www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org)  
[www.hcadopt.org](http://www.hcadopt.org)  
[www.hcfoster.org](http://www.hcfoster.org)

**Media Contact:**

Brian Gregg  
Media Spokesperson/Communications Manager  
E-mail: [greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org](mailto:greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org)  
Phone: 513-946-1728  
Fax: 513-946-2248

**Hamilton County Arrests 82 Deadbeats Who Owe Nearly \$1.5 million in Child Support During 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Sheriffs Roundup**

**Cincinnati (Dec. 14, 2006)** Eighty-two Hamilton County parents who owed nearly \$1.5 million in child support to 136 area children were recently arrested as Hamilton County participated in the annual Statewide Sheriff's Roundup to arrest parents who do not make their court-ordered child support payments.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Department and the county's Department of Job and Family Services' Child Support Enforcement Agency joined forces in the effort to crack down on deadbeat parents.

"These are parents who have turned their backs on their own children," said Brian Gregg, spokesman for the Department of Job and Family Services. "Taxpayers should not be responsible for financially supporting the children of parents who don't care. We're going to continue to track these parents down and hold them accountable."

Sheriff's deputies found one "deadbeat" parent cowering in a closet. Another was pulled from his job at a Mount Adams restaurant. Many were wanted on charges other than failing to pay child support – 113 warrants were cleared with the 82 arrests.

Some of the parents paid up immediately after their arrest; more than \$11,000 was collected.

The Department's Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 95,000 cases. Last year, it collected \$155 million for families that might not otherwise have had financial support to pay for items such as food, medical care, child care, school clothes and school supplies. Many children who do not receive child support turn to public assistance, with taxpayers providing financial support.

In addition to the Roundup, Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency uses a variety of tools to collect child support, including a Most Wanted poster, freezing and seizing funds from bank accounts, intercepting tax refunds and suspending licenses.

Sheriff's deputies search for child support offenders every day. In the past year, they've arrested more than 4,000 parents who have failed to pay their child support. The Sheriff's website, [www.hcso.org](http://www.hcso.org), lists the names and last known addresses of more than 3,000 "deadbeats" – people who have failed to appear in court on child support charges. Some have made child support payments in the past, but all have arrearages (past-due support). Some arrearages amount to tens of thousands of dollars. Some charges are felonies. Felony non-support is failure to make a child support payment for at least 26 out of 104 weeks.

Counties participating in this year's Roundup include: Ashland, Butler, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Fairfield, Franklin, Fulton, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Henry, Huron, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Muskingum, Ottawa, Pickaway, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas, Union, Van Wert, Warren, Wayne and Wood.

Ohio collected nearly \$2 billion in child support in state fiscal year 2006. There are nearly 1 million child support cases in the state. Ohio has the third largest child support caseload in the nation, ranks third in total collections, and first in collections for non-public assistance cases.

#### **About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services**

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, adult protection, child care, tuberculosis control, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands of residents each year. The Department of Job and Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.