



**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 Wraps up Successful Child Support Awareness Month  
with Hundreds Taking Advantage of Amnesty**

**Cincinnati (Sept. 12, 2007)** Nearly 300 people took advantage of Hamilton County's offer to get their driver's license reinstated in turn for re-establishing child support payments, allowing the county's Child Support Enforcement Agency to collect nearly \$88,000 in delinquent child support.

A similar effort providing amnesty to those who had juvenile court warrants issued for their arrest for failing to show at child support hearings resulted in 163 people getting their warrants withdrawn for appearing before the court and pledging to pay their child support.

"It was a very successful month and we're very happy so many people took advantage of our offers," said Jeffrey Startzman, assistant director of the Child Support Enforcement Agency, a division of the Department of Job and Family Services. "There are dozens of happy children throughout this community who are now going to have the money for important necessities, such as school clothes and supplies."

Parents didn't have to pay all of their delinquent support to qualify, but some did. One parent drove in from out of town and wrote a \$13,000 check to take advantage of the amnesty offering.

More than 13,000 parents in Hamilton County currently have their driver's licenses suspended because of failure to pay child support. Approximately 3,000 have warrants issued for their arrest for failure to appear in court. The agency offered amnesty on both as part of Child Support Awareness Month.

"It is important to give people a second chance to start anew," Startzman said. "Some of them want to pay, but circumstances have led them to dig themselves so far into a hole they can't see a way out. We give them a way, and everyone wins. It still may not be too late for those who missed these opportunities. Call us at 946-7387 and we can talk."

Other tools used to collect child support include suspending professional licenses, garnishing wages, freezing and seizing funds from bank accounts and intercepting tax refunds.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 93,000 cases right now. Last year, it collected \$155 million for families that might not otherwise have had the financial support necessary to pay for such items as food, medical care, child care, school clothes and school supplies. Many of the children who do not receive child support turn to public assistance, with taxpayers providing financial support.

**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 coverage. 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.