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**Former Cincinnati Bengal Who Owes More than \$900,000  
To Appear in Court for Failing to Support Children**

**Cincinnati (Sept. 18, 2007)** Former Cincinnati Bengal James Francis – who owes more than \$900,000 in child support to two of his children – has a court date set for tomorrow on a charge of nonsupport of dependants.

Francis, who was arrested in August in Galveston County, Texas, has been the target of Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency for some time. His last payment on one of his cases was made in 1999, while the last payment to his other child came in 2000. In total, he owes nearly \$905,000 in delinquent child support.

"These numbers are obscene," said Jeffrey Startzman, assistant director of the Child Support Enforcement Agency, a division of the Department of Job and Family Services. "It is despicable when someone who has the means to pay doesn't. And, after his playing career ended, he could have attempted to get his monthly obligation reduced, but he didn't even bother to go to court. He just tried to disappear and leave his children to fend for themselves. This goes to show, no matter how famous you are, you can't get away with not supporting your children."

Francis, 39, was returned to Hamilton County on Aug. 23 and has been held by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department.

Francis played for the Bengals from 1990-1998. He played with the Washington Redskins in 1999. He is not the only Bengal to gain recent prominence for not paying child support. Former Bengal Darnay Scott is featured on the agency's most recent Most Wanted poster and owes more than \$55,000 to his child.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency, a division of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, 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.