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**Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency Offers Chance
for Non-paying Parents to Erase Warrants**

Cincinnati (Aug. 23, 2007) To mark the final week of Child Support Awareness Month, Hamilton County's Juvenile Court, in conjunction with the Child Support Enforcement Agency, is offering amnesty to parents who currently have warrants issued for their arrest because they failed to appear in Juvenile Court for their child support hearings.

Approximately 3,000 parents meet this criteria and they can now have those warrants wiped off the books by simply appearing at the Court. Last year, more than 230 people took advantage of the offer.

"No questions asked – just appear at the court between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm on Aug. 27 and Aug 31 so you can get the warrant recalled," said Jeffrey Startzman, assistant director of the Child Support Enforcement Agency, a division of the Department of Job and Family Services. "This is the perfect time of the year to do it because we have thousands of children returning to school and they need their support money to buy clothes and school supplies."

Last year, the county collected \$36,000 during Amnesty Week.

"This is a get-out-of-jail-free card because if you don't take advantage of this, and the police catch you, you will end up in jail," Startzman said. "This is a great opportunity to start clean."

The Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 95,000 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.

The Child Support agency uses a variety of tools to collect support, including a Most Wanted poster, wage garnishing, freezing and seizing funds from bank accounts, intercepting tax refunds and suspending licenses.

To participate in Amnesty Week call 513-946-SETS (7387).

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.