



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
www.hcadopt.org
www.hcfoster.org

Media Contact:

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

New Annual Most Wanted Poster One of Many Highlights in Child Support Month

Cincinnati (July 31, 2008) Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services will unveil a new Most Wanted poster and host a number of other activities to celebrate National Child Support Month in August.

Six men and two women who owe more than \$568,000 are depicted on the new Most Wanted poster. The person with the highest delinquent account, Ronald Mack, whose last known address is Trimble Avenue in Cincinnati, owes more than \$153,000. The rest owe between \$13,000 and \$103,000.

To appear on a Most Wanted poster, the whereabouts of the absent parent must be unknown and the parent with custody of the children must sign a waiver. In addition, a person must have a child support-related warrant.

"These are the folks who have gone underground and we can't find them or any record of employment on their behalf," said Moira Weir, director of the Department of Job and Family Services, which houses the county's Child Support Enforcement Agency. "The majority of parents pay their support with no problem. Others pay off and on, but we know where they are and can use one of our many enforcement tools to ensure their children receive the support due them. This group...they have gone off the map and this is one of our last resorts in hopes of helping their children."

In addition to the new Most Wanted Poster, the agency has several events planned to celebrate Child Support Month, including a chance at forgiveness for those who have their licenses suspended or warrants issued for failing to appear on child support related charges. They can get plugged back into the system without penalty and have their right restored by coming forward and making arrangements to start paying on their delinquent support.

"Our Most Wanted poster always gets a lot of attention, but, the truth is, putative measures are a last resort in Child Support. The last place we want someone is in jail, because they can no longer work and provide financial support and they can no longer be a parent to the child," Weir said.

Here's a list of activities:

- A workshop for attorneys, probation officers and others to learn about the new Child Support cash medical orders is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., Aug. 6, at 237 William H. Taft Road. To sign up, call 946-8251.

- Presentation of Child Support Hero honors and Lifetime Achievement Honors to local residents who have worked to further child support collection.
- An amnesty initiative to help more than 14,000 local residents who have had their licenses suspended for non-payment of support. To participate, call 946-SETS.
- Amnesty for more than 3,000 with child support-related warrants issued through Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts. This will take place the week of Aug. 25-29. To participate, just show up at the courthouse that week. For more information, call 946-SETS.
- Billboards throughout the county and advertising on Cincinnati Reds radio broadcasts and Great American Ball Park TV screens.
- Appearances on talk radio and community affairs programs.
- Public service announcements on radio.
- Community presentations.
- 2008 Ohio Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council's Southwest Ohio Community Forums, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 18, at 237 William H. Taft Road. Those who want to hear about, or comment on, the guidelines should attend.

“We’re not just a collection agency,” Weir said. “We do a lot positive things in child support that I am very proud of. Child support should be about more than financial support, it must also be about providing the parenting support a child needs. Our REAL Dads program and our Seek Work program are both designed to financially stabilize paying parents while helping them to be more involved in their child’s life.”

The REAL Dads and Seek Work programs are designed to help parents deal with deep-seeded issues that contribute to lack of involvement in their children’s lives and prohibit them from working and financially supporting their children.

The Department’s Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 92,000 cases a year. Last year, it collected \$142 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.

In addition to Most Wanted poster, Hamilton County Child Support uses a variety of tools to collect child support, including intercepting tax returns, denying passports, freezing and seizing funds from bank accounts, and suspending licenses.

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, 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.