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Hamilton County Offers Amnesty on Child Support Cases

Cincinnati (Aug. 22, 2008) Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services is offering amnesty next week to more than 3,000 local residents who have child support-related warrants issued for their arrest.

This is in addition to the department's month long offer of amnesty to more than 14,000 county residents who have had their licenses suspended for failing to pay their child support.

"This is the chance for someone who got off track to make things right without penalty," said Moira Weir, director of the Department of Job and Family Services, which houses the county's Child Support Enforcement Agency. "Come down, get plugged back into the system and start making payments for your child. With school just around the corner, this is a time when children really need that financial support to buy school clothes and supplies."

Warrant amnesty week is scheduled for Aug. 25-29 and applies to those with warrants issued through Hamilton County's Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts. To participate, just show up at the courthouse that week. Drivers license amnesty continues through the end of the month and applies to all who have had their license suspended for non-payment of support. For more information on either initiative, call 946-SETS.

Hamilton County'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 Amnesty offers, Hamilton County Child Support uses a variety of tools to collect child support, including a Most Wanted poster, 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.