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**Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency
Issues New Monthly Most Wanted**

Cincinnati (July 1, 2008) A father who owes more than \$65,000 to his seven children is Hamilton County's latest monthly Most Wanted Deadbeat Parent.

Rodney Gardner, 37, was last known to reside on Llewellyn Avenue in Cincinnati. His last known occupation was working as a laborer.

He is the latest parent to be depicted in Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency's new monthly Most Wanted posters. The agency issues a Most Wanted poster each year depicting eight parents who owe large arrearages in child support. The county has received so much interest in participating in the annual posters that it decided to also issue one Most Wanted parent every month.

"It has been a successful tool and popular with custodial parents so we want to make sure as many people as possible have the chance to participate," said Moira Weir, director of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, which includes a Child Support Division. "We stand ready to use whatever tools necessary to help these children and families. They shouldn't have to go it alone or become a burden to taxpayers. If you bring a child into this world, you have a responsibility to that child."

Most Wanted posters include the person's photo, name, age, last-known address and occupation, number of children and amount owed.

The Department's Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 92,000 cases right now. 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.

To appear on a monthly Most Wanted poster, the parent with custody of the children must sign a waiver. In addition, a person must have a warrant for failure to appear in court, something that occurs when the absent parent does not appear in court on the contempt motion filed by the Support Enforcement Agency to enforce the order.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency sent the posters to government agencies, police departments, community partners, post offices and tax preparation services throughout the Tristate area.

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

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of someone on the poster can call the Sheriff's Office at 946-5350. Also, more parents wanted for failing to pay child support can be found at www.hcso.org. Choose Deadbeats from the Public Services menu. Tipsters can remain anonymous.

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, elderly 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 each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.