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

Cincinnati (July 28, 2011) A new Most Wanted poster featuring nine parents who combined owe nearly half a million dollars in child support payments will be released today by Hamilton County Job and Family Services as one of the many planned activities for National Child Support Month.

The seven men and two women owe more than \$488,000 to 18 different children. The person with on the poster with the highest delinquent account is James M. Woodruff, 60, whose last known address was on Iris Avenue in Cincinnati. He owes more than \$104,000 to two children.

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.

“We know these posters work. Last year, the person featured on the poster who owed the most was located and began making payments within weeks of the poster hitting the streets,” said Moira Weir, director of the Department of Job and Family Services, which houses the county’s Child Support Services Division. “If someone out there knows where these parents can be found, please call the Sheriff’s office.

“There is really no excuse for shirking your responsibility to financially support your child. Parents must be accountable for meeting the basic needs of the children they bring into this world.”

In addition to the new Most Wanted Poster, the agency is planning amnesty for the month of August for those who have had their driver’s licenses and professional licenses suspended due to failure to pay child support. Parents can call 946-SETS (7387) to sign agreements for reinstatement and begin paying their support.

“This is your chance to start with a clean slate,” Weir said. “Suspending a license is an action we would rather not take. Our main concern is that children receive the support they deserve and we are willing to work out an agreement if you are willing to be responsible.”

Parents in default who want their license reinstated will either pay their arrears in full, make a payment equal to the monthly obligation and agree to begin making regular payments or reach some other arrangement based on partial payment, employment information and bank account information. The delinquent parents must sign a written agreement to a payment plan.

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

But collecting child support is about more than chasing down delinquent parents. Hamilton County is currently enrolling parents in financial literacy workshops through a partnership with Smart Money Community Services, a non-profit organization in Over-the-Rhine. This innovative program is designed to improve the financial well-being of children by increasing the financial literacy of parents who pay child support. For more information, log on to www.smart-money.org or call directly 513-241-7266 extension 109.

The County's Child Support Enforcement Agency handled more than 90,000 cases and collected more than \$126 million last year for families that might not otherwise have had the money 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 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 assistance 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.