

2003 Annual Report Child Support Enforcement

Mission: The Division is responsible for the establishment, enforcement and collection of court orders for child support and/or medical insurance in a manner that is cost effective, in compliance with statutes and regulations, and that warrants the highest degree of public confidence.

Deputy Director: Brenda J. Gilreath

2003 Expenses: \$5,431,710

Citizens
Board Of Commissioners
County Administrators
DJFS Director
CSE Deputy Director
(79) Employees

2003 Accomplishments:

Collections: Child Support Enforcement collected an all-time high of \$35,292,583 in child support payments. The tax offset program garnered \$1,437,313 and our criminal non-support cases resulted in collections of \$715,268.13.

Hearings: In 2003, Child Support Enforcement conducted 1332 administrative (internal) hearings and participated in 4,113 judicial hearings. Additionally, 454 lump sum orders were filed with the Courts representing intercepts in excess of \$437,181.78. These lump sum orders resulted in \$83,907.22 intercepted mostly from employers or employee benefit plans for past due child support.

State and National Recognition: In July, Child Support Enforcement was honored with two 2003 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in recognition of an innovative program which contributes to and enhances county government in the United States. The 2002 Child Support Month Program Awareness Campaign and the Clermont Supports Kids Career Opportunities Program (COP) received the prestigious national recognition. The 2002 Child Support Month Program Awareness Campaign promoted enforcement techniques and increased public awareness of the services available through the Child Support Program. The Career Opportunities Program (COP) is a collaborative partnership between Child Support, Juvenile and Domestic Court, and the Clermont County Business & Workforce Resource Center, for the purpose of providing services to unemployed or underemployed individuals with child support obligations.

The Ohio Family Support Association also honored Clermont County's Child Support Enforcement with a 2003 Best Practice Award for the Clermont Support Kids Career Opportunities Program (COP). Since the program's inception in July, 2002, over 217 individuals have become employed, and over \$673,858 in child support has been collected from those persons referred to the program.

2003 Child Support Month Celebration: Child Support Enforcement celebrated Child Support Month with its second annual round-up of most wanted child support offenders. The Sheriff's

Office apprehended 57 individuals with outstanding bench warrants for non-support which is a 15% increase from 2002. Special emphasis was also placed on the administrative lien process which resulted in 86 liens filed with the Clermont County Recorder's Office during August. The annual most wanted poster was published and distributed in August which featured nine obligors with arrearage in excess of \$287,586. Four obligors featured on the poster were apprehended shortly after publication.

Challenges and Changes:

The National Medical Support Notice (NMSN), a federally required tool used to enforce medical support orders for minor children, was implemented in Ohio in 2003. An NMSN is issued to obtain verification of health insurance availability and put the legal obligation on the employer to enroll the children, keep them enrolled, and deduct premiums for the cost of health insurance. The Child Support Performance & Incentive Act of 1998 amended 42 U.S.C. 666(a)(19) and those changes are reflected in 45CFR 303.32. Legislation to incorporate this requirement in Ohio Law, House Bill 657, was signed on December 13, 2002 by Governor Taft and became effective that date. The NMSN created a significant increase in activities associated with case management and the administrative process.

In 2003, CSE implemented a Criminal Non-Support Diversion Program wherein obligors are initially diverted from Probation to CSE to obtain compliance of the Court Order. In addition, CSE also assumed probation monitoring functions for criminal non-support probationers. As of December 2003, CSE investigators are monitoring 59 diversion cases and 93 probation cases.

On August 1, 2003, in accordance with sections 3119.86 through 3119.94 of the Revised Code, the CSE was required to adopt rules, forms and procedures needed to ensure uniform implementation of the termination process. This new process required the funds for an emancipating child to be impounded, even if an arrearage exists and the obligee may ultimately receive the money at the completion of the action. To accomplish this, eleven forms were created to facilitate termination of a child support order from start to finish, either administratively or judicially.

Late in the year, Child Support Enforcement began to accept Mastercard and Discover credit card payments. In cooperation with the Clermont County Commissioners and Official Payments Corporation, individuals and businesses now have the opportunity to pay child support by telephone or over the Internet.

2003 Case Statistics:

Criminal Non-Support Cases: 460

Interstate Cases: 927

Paternity Establishment/Pre-Order Cases: 1317

Third Party/Caretaker Cases: 1382

Enforcement Cases: 8663

Total Case Count: 12,758

During 2003, CSE caseloads collectively consisted of 25,516 adults and 13,376 children for a total of 38,892 individuals. Throughout 2003, CSE staff served 6,401 customers.