

CWR -  
Child support  
(Florida)

**TOTAL CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS**

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY 93</u>	<u>FY 94</u>	<u>FY 95</u>	<u>FY 96</u>	<u>% Change</u>
FLORIDA	252,472,760	289,976,326	327,296,405	374,014,543	407,000,000	61.2%

**TOTAL CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS FROM INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING**

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY 93</u>	<u>FY 94</u>	<u>FY 95</u>	<u>FY 96</u>	<u>% Change</u>
FLORIDA	31,568,502	30,689,126	33,879,364	39,302,426	47,924,516	51.8%

## NEW HIRE REPORTING PROGRAMS SHOW SUCCESS

Twenty-five states currently have new hire programs in place. New hire programs enable states to locate delinquent parents very quickly through the receipt of employment information. These programs have led to striking improvements in locating parents who owe support and to dramatic increases in collections. The following are examples of state programs that are operating across the country:

Florida started its new hire program in January, 1995. In 1995, Florida's new hire reporting program resulted in over 8,000 matches for outstanding child support cases; the annual amount of support owed under these cases is \$15.2 million. An additional 50,000 matches were made for other child support-related activities, such as paternity establishment.

Iowa implemented its new hire program in January, 1994. The state estimates that it has added \$5 million to its collections for 1995 as a result of new hire reporting.

Massachusetts began its program in March, 1993. Since March, 1993, the state has matched new hire information with 137,329 non-paying parents. The state estimates that in 1995, new hire information yielded \$15.4 million in increased child support, saving an estimated \$21.6 million from welfare case closures.

Missouri began its new hire program in August, 1994. Missouri estimates that the program collected \$12 million in 1995. Over 10 percent of the 721,000 new hires reported in 1995 owed child support or were wanted in paternity establishment cases.

New York implemented its new hire program in April, 1996. Already, the state has processed 404,000 new hire reports (10,000-12,000 a day) with about a 7 percent match rate. New York estimates that it will collect \$14-\$15 million annually as a result of the program.

Virginia implemented its program in July, 1993. As of December 1995, the state had matched almost 200,000 child support cases through its new hire program and estimates that total collections from these cases are in excess of \$20 million. Of this, \$7.2 million was used for welfare payment savings. In fact, the state estimates that total savings to the AFDC, Medicaid and Food Stamp programs from the new hire program equal over \$1.2 million in monthly benefits.

Washington implemented its new hire program on July 1, 1990. New hire reporting is documented as the state's most cost effective child support enforcement tool. For every dollar the state spends on its new hire program, it gains approximately \$20 in child support collections. Washington collected \$7.8 million in the first 18 months of its program, half of which was used to decrease welfare payments and save taxpayers money. The state has reduced the time required to receive employment information from 178 days to 43 days. Employers may report new hire information in a variety of ways -- computer diskettes, tapes, or by faxing reports to a special 800 toll-free line.

13TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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PR Newswire

September 17, 1996, Tuesday

SECTION: State and Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: TO CITY EDITOR

LENGTH: 343 words

HEADLINE: NFL Teams And Florida Dept. of Revenue Kick Off 'Don't Drop The Ball' Campaign; New Child Support Initiative Spotlights Parental Responsibility

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Sept. 17

BODY:

Florida's three National Football League teams joined the Department of Revenue today to announce the start of a new statewide public education campaign on child support enforcement that emphasizes the importance of parents taking responsibility for their children.

The campaign features Jacksonville Jaguars offensive lineman Brian DeMarco; Miami Dolphins safety Michael Stewart; and Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Tony Dungy, quarterback Casey Weldon and linebacker Hardy Nickerson. The children of the players and coach also appear in the campaign, which will include statewide t.v. and radio public service announcements, billboards, posters and newspaper ads.

The "Don't Drop the Ball" campaign starts this week and will run concurrently with the pro football season. It focuses on the responsibilities of being a parent and providing for one's children, including paying child support.

"Making sure our children get the financial support they need to grow and thrive is a community issue that can't be solved by government action," said Revenue Executive Director Larry Fuchs. "We are thrilled that Florida's pro football teams are willing to help focus public attention on this critical problem."

DeMarco said that fatherhood is a responsibility he takes seriously. "Obviously my children are important to me. I've been in that situation before, growing up with my parents being divorced," he said. "I know how important it is to support your children and how important it was for our father to support us."

The "Don't Drop the Ball" campaign is the DOR's second statewide educational effort involving the Child Support Enforcement Program and members of the Florida Association of Broadcasters, the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and the Florida Press Association. Last year the DOR launched a "Pay Up or Walk" campaign that informed the public of the state's ability to suspend a person's driver license if child support isn't paid.

SOURCE State of Florida Department of Revenue

CONTACT: Donna O'Neal, or Chuck Springston, Florida Department of Revenue, 904-487-2426

72ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 Times Publishing Company  
St. Petersburg Times

March 10, 1996, Sunday, 0 South Pinellas Edition

SECTION: CITY & STATE; Pg. 1B

DISTRIBUTION: CITY & STATE; METRO & STATE; TAMPA & STATE

LENGTH: 1065 words

HEADLINE: Federal action taken against deadbeat parents

BYLINE: BRUCE VIELMETTI

DATELINE: TAMPA

BODY:

In the struggle to collect unpaid child support money, states have tried contempt orders, statewide round-ups, even suspending drivers' licenses.

Still, many parents manage to dodge their financial duties to their children.

Now the cavalry is riding into the battle in the form of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Owing back support payments is no longer just a stigma or political liability; it can be a federal offense, punishable by six months in prison and a fine.

President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno have declared enforcement a top priority, saying some \$ 5-billion in unpaid support is at stake. But some judges already have thrown out the law that empowers the feds to go after non-paying parents, and it will probably take a Supreme Court review to settle the issue.

Late in 1992, Congress gave federal prosecutors and the FBI authority to go after parents who owe \$ 5,000 or more, haven't made a payment in at least a year and live in a different state from their children. Agents can chase them across state lines, wherever they go, unlike state enforcement authorities, who have to rely on cumbersome interstate agreements and the varying competence of their state-level peers.

In Tampa, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Wanda Heard has made Florida's Middle District one of the busiest chasers of deadbeats in the nation. Heard, who prosecutes such cases for the entire 35-county district, said in the past 15 months her office has brought in about \$ 200,000 in back support.

Gregory King, a Justice Department spokesman in Washington, D.C., said Tampa is among the most aggressive and successful districts in the country. Nationwide, he said, convictions have resulted in orders for more than \$ 1-million in overdue payments.

St. Petersburg Times, March 10, 1996

Most of the non-paying parents decide to pay up rather than face a federal prosecution, Heard said. But in three cases, delinquent dads were arrested and charged. A federal magistrate in Orlando found one of them, a doctor living in Arizona, guilty and ordered him to pay \$ 76,000 to his children living in Melbourne.

John Kegel, a Texas truck driver, was charged with not paying \$ 38,000 in child support since his Pasco County divorce in 1985. He has pleaded guilty. His ex-wife, Nancy Scott, said she had given up on her case until the feds stepped in. She said she is still not sure her daughter, now 18, will ever see any money.

"I don't have a whole lot of faith in that whole deal, but maybe it will work for some other people," Scott said. "Because many think if they leave the state, they're home free, and mostly they are."

A third case with a local connection is that of Bekri Mohammad Nuru, whose ex-wife and children now live in Lutz in Pasco County. But Nuru has challenged the Federal Child Support Recovery Act of 1992. His attorney, Assistant Public Defender Matthew Perry, seeks a dismissal on the grounds the law violates the 10th Amendment by unnecessarily wading into an area already regulated by the states.

While several judges and magistrates have upheld the law, three federal judges have thrown it out. The law, "sounds, walks and looks like a domestic relations statute and aims the central government down a slippery slope where it should not be," wrote a Texas federal judge in declaring the law unconstitutional.

Perry also argues that the law cannot be supported by the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, because willfully failing to pay child support does not affect prices of goods in interstate commerce or the channels of such commerce.

The government contends that unpaid support leaves some households on welfare, which affects interstate commerce because the costs of social programs are widespread.

But, Perry says, if Congress relied on social and moral bases alone, "it would be hard to imagine any activity that Congress could not, would, and should not regulate."

Nuru's case is now pending before U.S. District Judge Susan Bucklew of Tampa. Appeals in the other two Middle District cases have raised the same argument.

Heard and defense attorneys expect one of the cases will wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court fairly quickly.

"Like any new statute, there are constitutional challenges," Heard said. "This has been no different. In fact, we'd like to get some good law."

Nuru and Marilou Nuru were married in 1978 in Kenya. They divorced in Missouri 10 years later. Nuru was ordered to pay \$ 200 a week in child support. He remarried in 1987.

St. Petersburg Times, March 10, 1996

According to court records, Nuru earned \$ 4,000 a month as an insurance agent in Kansas City, then briefly ran a restaurant in Atlanta. After it failed, he was rehired by his old insurance company to work in Georgia.

Marilou caught up with him there. In 1991, under the Uniform Reciprocal Child Support Act, a Georgia court entered another order against Nuru.

But around 1993, Nuru left Georgia for Washington, D.C., where he has been "living with friends" and running a newsstand, according to records.

Heard said federal prosecution is made for people like Nuru who move from state to state whenever an enforcement order or wage garnishment comes down. According to records, Nuru owes more than \$ 14,000 in support.

So how does a frustrated parent get federal prosecutors' muscle behind their case? Don't call them directly, Heard warned. Virtually all her cases get referred from the local child support enforcement offices of the state Department of Revenue.

"We've got to show we've done everything possible," said Colleen Darlington, from the DOR's New Port Richey office.

Heard usually sends a letter to the delinquent parent explaining they might be charged with a federal crime, and that gets them to arrange payments, she said. But if she suspects the person might just move again, she offers no notice until FBI agents make an arrest.

The Judicial Conference of the U.S., which represents the federal bench, opposed the Child Support Recovery Act when it was passed on concerns it would cause thousands more cases to flood into a court system already struggling to handle traditional federal crimes.

That's part of why Heard has filed formal charges in only three cases. "Because the maximum penalty is only six months, I prefer not to clog the courts."

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO, JIM STEM; Wanda Heard

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 12, 1996

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St. Petersburg Times

January 6, 1996, Saturday, City Edition

SECTION: TAMPA BAY AND STATE; Pg. 5B

DISTRIBUTION: TAMPA BAY AND STATE; TAMPA TODAY

LENGTH: 490 words

HEADLINE: Threat of jail unlocked late child support

SOURCE: Compiled from Staff and Wire Reports

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE

BODY:

The prospect of jail helped the state collect more than \$ 1-million last year from parents who had refused to make child support payments, the Florida Department of Revenue announced Friday.

In separate statewide sweeps held in March and November, law authorities arrested 1,929 parents and collected \$ 1,011,954 from them.

The money came from "purgues" - an amount set by a judge that must be paid before the delinquent parent is released from jail. That amount can be the total owed or an amount the judge believes shows a good-faith effort to pay overdue child support.

The average purge paid during the sweeps was \$ 524.60. Most of those arrested were fathers.

Both sweeps were part of "Operation Non-Support," a joint project of the Florida Sheriffs Association Task Force, headed by Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice, and the Department of Revenue.

"There are several thousand parents scattered across Florida who are still in arrears on their child support," Rice said. "When the identity of those individuals comes to the attention of the Department of Revenue and the sheriffs of Florida, we will get no joy from taking them into custody."

Rice said parents delinquent on their child support payments should pay up now. "That way they can avoid the risk of becoming one of the statistics in our next statewide roundup," he said.

In the March sweep, 882 parents were arrested and \$ 492,691 in child support payments was collected. In the November sweep, 1,047 child support violators were arrested and \$ 519,263 was collected.

The unannounced sweeps utilized deputies, some of them working undercover, from the state's 67 counties. Deputies arrested some parents at work while others were arrested at home. One parent was taken into custody while taking

St. Petersburg Times, January 6, 1996

a shower and another was found hiding in a closet.

Revenue officials have begun using a variety of tools to increase child support payments.

Last February, the department launched a "Pay Up or Walk" campaign to let deadbeats know their drivers' licenses could be suspended for failure to pay child support.

In November, the department made public a list of nearly 10,000 child support violators who hadn't paid a dime in several months.

But most newspapers throughout the state declined to print the list after state officials said it contained only a small percentage of those who owe child support and might not be accurate.

In December, Revenue began intercepting auto impact fee refunds from delinquent parents.

During the state's 1994-95 fiscal year, the Revenue Department increased child support collections by 12 percent over the previous year to a total of \$ 440.1-million.

Revenue took over the child enforcement program from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in 1994.

- Information from the Associated Press and Times files was used in this report.

GRAPHIC: BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO; Pinellas Sheriff Everett Rice, (ran TAMPA BAY & STATE)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 8, 1996



# THE STATE OF FLORIDA

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

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FOLLOWING 9 PAGES

TO:

*Emily B / Bruce Keel*

FAX #

FROM:

*A. Kelmer*

DATE:

TIME:

**IMMEDIATE ATTENTION**

NOTE:

*this "Jaeger" will be appearing w/ Gov and President in Daytona & there was a special team mtg to discuss allowing him*

*2030-3745*

*630 1355*

*x Watched to make sure WR*

*x A lot of promising very Good pay = Goodwill programs like*

*WR  
Child support  
(Florida)*

*on as he will be late for*

# Don't Drop the Ball

## Support Your Children

Florida Department of Revenue  
Child Support Enforcement

Sponsored by the Florida Department of Revenue and the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association.



Brian DeMarco  
Jacksonville  
Jaguars

**T.V. script -- Brian DeMarco  
Jacksonville Jaguars**

*fade up  
music under*

I'm Brian DeMarco, starting right guard for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Being an offensive lineman in the NFL is a big responsibility. But providing for your children is an even bigger responsibility.

You don't get a time out when it comes to paying child support. That money can make a big difference in your child's life.

With your children, there's no penalty for holding but there are penalties for not paying child support. Support your children!

*cut to: graphic  
v/o announcer:*

Providing for your children isn't just the right thing to do.....It's the law.  
Don't drop the ball....Support your children.

###



**BRIAN**

**DeMARCO**

**GUARD**

Height: 6-7

Weight: 322

College: Michigan State

Birthdate: April 9, 1972

Birthplace: Berea, Ohio

How Acquired: 2nd Round of 1995 Draft

NFL Experience: 2nd Year

**GAMES PLAYED/STARTED: 1995 (16/16)**

**PRO:** Second-year starter who is moving to right guard after starting all 16 games at right tackle as a rookie in 1995 ... Second-round draft choice who stands out as a run blocker ... Improved considerably over the course of his rookie season ... Was the second of two second-round draft choices in '95 ... 1995: Started at right tackle for all 21 games, including all five preseason games ... Was the only Jaguars rookie to start every game ... Missed less than two quarters of action all season (fourth quarter of the season opener and parts of two others because of non-serious injuries) ... Faced Green Bay's All-Pro Reggie White in only his fourth game as a pro, and later in the season went up against Pittsburgh's Kevin Greene and Cleveland's Rob Burnett twice ... Was selected along with Chris Hudson with choices obtained from the New York Jets in exchange for the Jaguars' second-round choice (No. 33) ... Eighth offensive tackle drafted and the 10th offensive lineman, the 40th player selected overall.

**NOTABLE**

- Moved to right guard this year after playing right tackle as a rookie in 1995
- Was the only rookie to start every game last year
- One of his rookie year highlights was playing in Cleveland Municipal Stadium near his hometown of Lorain, Ohio, before the Browns moved to Baltimore

... Was the only Jaguars rookie to start every game ... Missed less than two quarters of action all season (fourth quarter of the season opener and parts of two others because of non-serious injuries) ... Faced Green Bay's All-Pro Reggie White in only his fourth game as a pro, and later in the season went up against Pittsburgh's Kevin Greene and Cleveland's Rob Burnett twice ... Was selected along with Chris Hudson with choices obtained from the New York Jets in exchange for the Jaguars' second-round choice (No. 33) ... Eighth offensive tackle drafted and the 10th offensive lineman, the 40th player selected overall.

**COLLEGE:** Massive drive blocker who specialized in run blocking at Michigan State ... First-team Coaches, and second-team All-Big Ten Conference selection in 1994 at right tackle ... Leader of an experienced front wall that led the way for Michigan State's running attack that averaged 175.9 yards per game ... Started every game at right tackle in 1993, as the team generated most of its 365.6 yards per game ... Started the first six games at right tackle in 1992 but suffered rib and back injuries and missed two games ... Valuable reserve as a backup in 1991 and was redshirted as a freshman in 1990 ... Majored in criminal justice.

**PERSONAL:** Married (Vanessa) with two sons, Vincent (7/17/92) and Zakery (11/2/94) ... Lives in Jacksonville ... Parade All-American and All-State first-team selection at Admiral King High in Lorain, Ohio ... Selected Ohio's Division I Uneman of the Year as a senior ... Avid weightlifter, bench-pressing 430 pounds with 37 reps at 225 pounds and a 750-pound squat ... Is active visiting local elementary schools and hospitals on his own ... Along with wife Vanessa and Tony and Angi Bosell co-hosted a fundraiser for the American Heart Association ... Full name: Brian Thomas DeMarco.

**WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT BRIAN DeMARCO**

"He reminds me of me when I came into the league -- a big, burly kid. He relies on his strength and toughness."

— Jaguars center Dave Widell



L. H. Fuchs  
Executive Director

STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0100

Sept. 17, 1996

General Tax Administration  
Child Support Enforcement  
Property Tax Administration  
Administrative Services  
Information Services

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

DONNA O'NEAL/CHUCK SPRINGSTON  
(904) 487-2426

**NFL TEAMS AND DOR KICK OFF 'DON'T DROP THE BALL' CAMPAIGN  
NEW CHILD SUPPORT INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHTS PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Florida's three National Football League teams joined the Department of Revenue today to announce the start of a new statewide public education campaign on child support enforcement that emphasizes the importance of parents taking responsibility for their children.

The campaign features Jacksonville Jaguars offensive lineman Brian DeMarco; Miami Dolphins safety Michael Stewart; and Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Tony Dungy, quarterback Casey Weldon and linebacker Hardy Nickerson. The children of the players and coach also appear in the campaign, which will include statewide t.v. and radio public service announcements, billboards, posters and newspaper ads.

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"Making sure our children get the financial support they need to grow and thrive is a community issue that can't be solved by government action," said Revenue Executive Director Larry Fuchs. "We are thrilled that Florida's pro football teams are willing to help focus public attention on this critical problem."

DeMarco said that fatherhood is a responsibility he takes seriously. "Obviously my children are important to me. I've been in that situation before, growing up with my parents being divorced," he said. "I know how important it is to support your children and how important it was for our father to support us."

The "Don't Drop the Ball" campaign is the DOR's second statewide educational effort involving the Child Support Enforcement Program and members of the Florida Association of Broadcasters, the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and the Florida Press Association. Last year the DOR launched a "Pay Up or Walk" campaign that informed the public of the state's ability to suspend a person's driver license if child support isn't paid.

Copies of the t.v. scripts and billboards are attached.

####

# THE FAST WORD



## "Don't Drop the Ball!"

BY JEFF KUCHT

Why is it that when you see a big, hulking, NFL lineman doing a PSA (public service announcement) on television or radio, it seems to carry a stronger message than when a running back, wide receiver or even a quarterback does the same message?

Are linemen more believable than running backs? Are we more intimidated by the 300-pounders compared to the guys who can run a 4.5 in the 40?

Whatever the reason, the point couldn't be driven home any more emphatically than by the latest PSA message that the Jaguars' Brian DeMarco has done for the Florida Department of Revenue. The message will be aired on local television stations, and a picture of DeMarco holding a football and his two young sons will be seen on 20 billboards around the Jacksonville area.

The billboard message is crystal clear: "Don't Drop the Ball - Support Your Children." The television script that the Jaguars' second-year starting guard recites is just as explicit:

"Being an offensive lineman in the NFL is a big responsibility. But providing for your children is an even bigger responsibility. You don't get a time out when it comes to paying child support. That money can make a big difference in your child's life. With your children, there's no penalty for holding, but there are penalties for not paying child support. Support your children!"

For DeMarco, it's a message that he has experienced first hand. He grew up in a rough section of Cleveland, one of three children, who, for the most part, was raised by his mother. His father simply walked away from family life when DeMarco was just entering his teenage years.

"It was extremely difficult for us to survive," he recalls. "Eventually we lost all our possessions, our house, everything. We were forced into bankruptcy as there was no financial support coming from my father."

DeMarco used his football talents to earn a scholarship at Michigan State University where he married his high school sweetheart, Vanessa, following his sophomore year. They had two sons while he was still an undergrad in college, resulting in some financially difficult times.

Having survived through those tough days however, DeMarco has now pledged his support to help end the repeated cycle that exists in many broken-family homes.

"Far too many fathers are neglecting their financial support to their children," he said. "I don't understand how a parent can just leave a child without any or very little financial support."

"We have to create a change of overall values and morals by fathers. There is a vicious cycle that exists when fathers don't take care of their children, and those kids grow up and don't take care of their kids, etc., etc. That's what I'm all about right now, to make sure that cycle doesn't repeat itself. It won't happen in my family and I'll do what I can to help others avoid it as well."

When DeMarco recently announced his pledge to support this cause, among those in attendance was Jaguars' owner Wayne Weaver. He shared the same strong convictions that DeMarco had publicly announced; having also experienced the struggles of growing up

with a single parent.

"I come from a broken family, and I understand the issues and the hardships it creates on a family," said Weaver. "These dead-beat fathers need to understand the responsibility that goes along with this and what the consequences are: if they avoid child support. The more awareness that can be created, especially with an advocate like Brian, who is such a role model, the more help it will be."

"Brian speaks from the heart when he talks about this project. You couldn't have a better spokesman than him. It's a serious issue the state can't legislate so it takes community involvement, everybody working together in the community, to sort this out and solve some of these problems."

"The Jaguars have an awesome responsibility in the community in terms of who we are and how we can impact both economic and social change. We take this responsibility very seriously."

The Miami Dolphins and Tampa Bay Buccaneers have also lined up players and coaches who will appear in a statewide campaign to gain exposure for the project. The "Don't Drop the Ball" campaign will run concurrently with the NFL season.

"Making sure our children get the financial support they need to grow and thrive, is a community issue that can't be solved by government action," said Department of Revenue Executive Director Larry Fuchs. "We are thrilled that Brian and other members of Florida's pro football teams are willing to help focus public attention on this critical problem."

Spend any time with DeMarco away from the football field and it's easy to see that Vanessa and his two sons, Vincent (4) and Zakery (2 next month) rate so much higher than football on his ladder of life's important matters.

"My kids are my world, they mean everything to me," DeMarco emphatically stated. "Nothing else really matters except for those two little guys. Football is a game and it's a big thing, but it's not life. It's a phase of my life I'm thoroughly enjoying, but it's not my life. Football is my job - my family is my life."

He's 6-foot-6-inches, 322 pounds and he can get choked up within seconds when he talks about the values and importance of family life. The Jaguars and the Department of Revenue have themselves a winner, a believable winner, both on and off the field, in DeMarco.

Let's hope his message has an effect on the thousands of negligent dead-beat dads throughout the state of Florida and the rest of the country.



# Jacksonville Jaguars In The Community Jaguars' DeMarco DOR Spokesman

by MAX MERBUT, Sports Editor

"Football is a phase of my life that I'm really enjoying, but it's not as important as my responsibilities as a parent." With that statement, Brian DeMarco accepted the position as the Jacksonville Jaguars' representative in a new campaign sponsored by the Florida Department of Revenue's child support initiative. The team's starting right guard added, "This is bigger than most of you know. I went through this — growing up without child support — it's a very tough situation."

The same "Don't Drop the Ball" advertising campaign also features players and a head coach (and their children) from Florida's two other NFL teams. Besides DeMarco (and his two sons, Vincent and Zakery), Miami Dolphins safety Michael Stewart and head coach Tony Dungy, quarterback Casey Weldon and linebacker Hardy Nickerson of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and their children are also participating in the project. The ad campaign will include television, radio, billboard and print ads designed to educate the public about the importance of parental responsibility for their children. The ads focus attention on the responsibilities of being a parent and providing for one's children, including paying child support.

Larry Fuchs, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Revenue said that the idea for the campaign was launched when someone in his office suggested that pro football players might be good spokesmen for parental responsibility, since there are three NFL teams in the state. After three phone calls and three enthusiastic "Yes!" answers from the teams, the DOR went into action.

"The only way we can make a significant difference in child support — and make sure children are adequately taken care of — is to change the way society views this problem," said Fuchs. "This is a community problem which is hard to solve with government intervention. It takes an entire community to solve this problem."

According to DOR figures, billions of dollars in child support is unpaid by thousands of parents each year in Florida. The children get the full amount of child support in only about 25% of cases, but in over half of the cases, nothing is collected.

Besides football player celebrities, the DOR has put together a powerful game plan

## Don't Drop the Ball Support Your Children

Florida Department of Revenue  
Child Support Enforcement



Brian DeMarco and sons appear on new DOR billboards.

Florida's sheriffs, working with DOR, conducted surprise arrest sweeps in March and November, 1995, resulting in the arrest of nearly two thousand child support violators and the collection of over \$1 million in child support.

The DOR also intercepted past-due child support from those auto-impact fee refunds granted by the Florida Supreme Court, collecting over \$350,000.

The 1996 Legislature has given DOR the authority to levy the personal property and bank assets in order to collect past-due child support.

Starting October 1st, 1996, the names of all child support violators with arrest warrants will be placed on Florida's Crime Information Center network, a state-wide criminal database used by law enforcement officers. This will enable any law enforcement officer, during routine background checks on traffic stops or other activities, to

instantly identify people with arrest warrants for non-payment of child support, even if the warrant was issued in a different county from where the violator is now living.

In other words, the State of Florida is getting tough on child support violators, and the National Football League is going to strap it up, hit the field and help.

"My kids are my world. They are truly everything to me. I can't imagine a part of being a father is making sure your kids don't understand how a parent could just leave a child. What can you say? — other than to do what's right."

The "Don't Drop the Ball" campaign starts this week and will continue through the end of football season.



L. H. Fuchs  
Executive Director

# STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0100

General Tax Administration  
Child Support Enforcement  
Property Tax Administration  
Administrative Services  
Information Services

Oct. 15, 1996

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## **CHILD SUPPORT VIOLATORS ADDED TO STATE CRIME DATA BASE**

For the first time ever, the names of Florida's "most wanted" deadbeats -- people with civil arrest orders for skipping out on their child support payments -- are being put on a statewide crime computer tracking system, further tightening the noose around deadbeat parents.

The computerized data base enables law enforcement officers doing routine background checks for traffic stops or other reasons to identify and immediately arrest child support violators anywhere around the state, no matter which county issued the "writ of bodily attachment" order.

"This new initiative already is proving to be a formidable weapon for tracking down deadbeat parents on the run -- even if they skip across the state," said Department of Revenue Executive Director Larry Fuchs. "Let me say this loud and clear: if you don't pay your child support, there is nowhere to hide and you really are going to jail."

Under a new law that took effect Oct. 1, the names of 4,050 child support violators are being placed on the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC). The FCIC is a statewide criminal data base maintained by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and used by law enforcement officers around the state.

The Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Department of Revenue today made public a county-by-county listing of the violators and a toll-free number for citizens to call with tips on the whereabouts of these "wanted" individuals.

**(MORE)**

## DOR Child Support Enforcement Initiatives 1995-1996

### 1. Driver license suspensions/"Pay Up or Walk" Campaign

Deadbeat parents were warned during a Spring 1995 statewide media campaign that the state can suspend driver licenses for failure to pay child support. More than \$1.3 million in child support was collected during the first year from people who paid to avoid losing their licenses.

### 2. Arrest Sweeps

Florida's sheriffs, working with DOR, initiated two surprise arrest sweeps in March 1995 and November 1995, resulting in the arrest of nearly 2,000 child support violators and the collection of more than \$1 million in child support. Future sweeps are in the works.

### 3. Impact Fee Intercepts

The DOR deducted past-due child support obligations from refunds of a \$295 auto impact fee that the Florida Supreme Court overturned. By comparing the names of drivers due auto refunds with people who owed back-due child support, in December 1995 the state intercepted more than \$387,000 for 1,670 child support clients. A second intercept is under way for drivers who paid the impact fee but initially did not get a refund.

### 4. Privatization of Collections

In January 1996 the DOR contracted with two private companies to handle location and collection activities for about 102,000 of the state's most difficult cases. So far, this public-private partnership has resulted in more than \$14 million collected for the children at a rate of return of nearly \$6 for every \$1 invested. The vendor fees are paid from federal funds, not child support collections, according to a formula based on how much support the vendors collect.

### 5. Bank Assets

The 1996 Legislature gave DOR the authority to seize certain assets of individuals in order to collect back-due child support. The law allows DOR to levy against personal property and credits, excluding wages, and intercept payments to state contractors who are behind on their child support. The DOR has had similar authority to collect against back-due taxes; the new law expands that authority to include child support cases.

### 6. State crime computer

Starting Oct. 1, 1996, the names of all child support violators with arrest warrants will be placed on Florida's Crime Information Center network, a statewide criminal database used by law enforcement officers. This will enable any law enforcement officer, during routine background checks on traffic stops or other activities, to instantly identify people with arrest warrants for nonpayment of child support -- even if the warrant was issued in a different county from where the violator is now living.

In addition to releasing the names of violators, officials announced the results of a third statewide arrest sweep that Florida's sheriffs conducted over the summer in preparation for the Oct. 1 implementation of the crime data base law. "Operation Non-Support III" resulted in 3,302 arrests and \$2,065,722 in child support collected from deadbeats as their ticket out of jail. Their names will not be put on the crime network unless they fail to start paying their child support regularly and more arrest orders are issued.

Child support enforcers already are reaping benefits from the new law. In the past two weeks, 160 child support violators have been arrested -- including an arrest in Orange County that occurred less than a half hour after the law took effect. The arrests include:

- \* Daniel Aggar, 29, who was picked up by Orange County Sheriff's deputies during a routine traffic stop at 12:28 a.m. on the day the law took effect. Aggar, who sometimes works at pizza restaurants and lounges, was booked into the Orange County Jail. He owes more than \$13,000 in back-due child support and had been wanted by authorities since last March.

- \* Leandris Daniels, a 42-year-old day laborer, was arrested last week when he walked into the Daytona Beach Police Department to report that he had been the victim of a battery. When officers ran his name on the state crime computer, they found that he owes more than \$16,000 in back-due child support and had been wanted for more than two years. Authorities had never been able to find Daniels because he constantly hopped from job to job, does not have a current driver license and does not have any vehicles registered under his name. Daniels was booked into the Volusia County Jail.

- \* Walter J. Harris, 45, a self-employed pastor from Oviedo, was arrested Oct. 3 after he was in a car accident. An Oviedo police officer who worked the accident ran a check on the crime computer and discovered that Harris was wanted since last August for more than \$5,000 in back-due child support for two separate cases. After being treated for minor injuries at a local hospital, Harris was booked into the Seminole County Jail.

- \* Jason Hamm, 23, occupation unknown, of Punta Gorda, was arrested at a residence last week when law enforcement officials in DeLand responded to a fight. They charged Hamm with battery and found after running his name through the crime computer that he was wanted for violating probation on a drug charge and for owing more than \$15,800 on two child support cases in Sarasota and Charlotte counties. Arrest orders for the child support debts had been issued earlier this year.

Fuchs announced that the Florida Sheriffs Association, in cooperation with the Revenue Department, is operating a toll-free telephone number (1-800-950-9159) for citizens to report tips on the whereabouts of child support violators listed on the crime network. In addition, the Department of Revenue plans to put the names of the violators on the agency's Internet home page. Internet users can type <http://sun6.dms.state.fl.us/dor/revenue.html> to access the DOR home page.

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