

ACES

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Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice

cc:

Subject: Child support

Child Support

The GAO's harsh assessment of the nation's child support system has raised the issue of whether the child support enforcement system should be Federalized. In its report, GAO stated that states have failed to put in place automated child support enforcement systems that would allow them to collect the \$39 billion in accumulated unpaid support and that the federal government through OCSE has provided inadequate leadership. Presently the number of child support cases in which collections are being made is about 20 percent. The problem of child support made more urgent by the new welfare law, ACES estimate that as many as a quarter of those on welfare could go off the rolls if they received the support they were owed.

The principal proponents of federalizing child support enforcement in Congress are Henry Hyde (R-Ill) and Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif), who have introduced new legislation called the Uniform Child Support Enforcement Act of 1997. This bill will place child support enforcement under the IRS if more than 50 percent of the states do not have at least a 76 percent collection rate for child support within 3 years after the bill is enacted.

In the current system, states operate programs to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity, obtain support orders, and enforce actual collection of support payments. In accordance with a 1980 law, the federal government through OCSE funds 66 percent of state administrative and operating costs, as well as 90 percent of expenses associated with planning, developing, installing and/or enhancing automated systems. In 1988, the Family Support Act required that state-wide systems be developed to track determination of paternity and child support collections and set a deadline of October 1995. Only a handful of states met the deadline due, in part, to OSCE's 3-year delay in developing system requirements. Congress then passed legislation extending the deadline by 2 years, to October 1997.

Will states meet the new October 1997 deadline? Apparently not all of them will. Even though states have spent over \$2 billion federal dollars plus \$0.6 billion of their own money on computer systems, HHS predicts that only 80 percent of states and territories will meet the deadline. Unfortunately, eight of the states that GAO predicts will fail to meet the new deadline -- CA, MI, FL, OH, PA, IN, TX, and IL -- represents almost 50 percent of the nation's child support cases.

Why? State's inability in meeting the October 1997 deadline can be

attributed to contractor problems, technical glitches, cost overruns and jurisdictional problems between the counties and states. In addition, GAO writes that "states have underestimated the magnitude, complexity, and cost of the system projects. Costs have increased rapidly in the past 5 years."

But hasn't collection of child support increased dramatically? Yes. The total amount of child support collected has increased from \$8 billion in 1992 to \$12 billion in 1996. Yet while collections increased, so did support orders, which means the rate has remained relatively constant -- states still collect money in fewer than 20 percent of cases in which it is owed. There is huge variation among states, with Minnesota collecting in 40 percent of cases the best, and Indiana's 10 percent, the worst.

Federalizing Child Support

The arguments supporting federalizing child support enforcement include:

- (1) The IRS has already shown itself capable of collecting child-support. Since 1981 when it began tapping into the income-tax refunds of parents who owe back child support, the IRS has caught 10 million deadbeat parents and recovered more than \$6 billion for their children.
- (2) The new welfare bill imposes extensive new requirements on states to centralize and automate their child support collection systems, building on the requirements of the 1988 law. If states cannot already meet the requirement of the 1988 law, how will they meet these new requirements.
- (3) The GAO report warned that the \$2 billion may prove inadequate, even without the additional requirement imposed by the 1996 welfare law.

The arguments against federalizing child support enforcement include:

- (1) States want to retain control of child support enforcement even if they might not want to put much of their resources into these programs.
- (2) It is not clear that the IRS would like to take on an increased responsibility in child support enforcement.

Other Options

HHS agrees with the GAO recommendation that HHS should increase the resources and expertise to provide an increased level of technical assistance to the states.

Details of the Hyde-Woolsey bill

The bill allows the IRS to collect child-support payroll deductions in the same way as FICA taxes are collected. State courts would continue to decide who must pay and how much. The Social Security Administration would disburse payments to parents or to state welfare agencies. Under play employers would deduct and withhold support payments, just as they withhold taxes, and failure to withhold would be punished just a failure to withhold taxes is sanctions. The custodial parent could choose, if payments were begin made

regularly, to let current procedures continue without the IRS deducting from the other parent. The IRS would also have access to a national register of support orders. If a parent failed to pay the amount of support ordered by the tax deadline, the IRS would assess and collect the amount in the same way it collects unpaid Federal taxes.

Statistics from ACES

- Presently over \$39 billion in accumulated unpaid support due to over 29 million children in the US.
- ACES estimates that 700,000 mothers and children have been forced on welfare because they don't receive the child support they should. That's a cost of \$4.2 billion each decade to cover the delinquent parent's obligation. In the US, over 90% of children on welfare are entitled to child support, yet only 10% receive any child support payments.
- 36 percent of all child support cases involve more than one state.
- Only 24% of families headed by a woman never married to her children's father receive regular child support payments.
- Only 54% of families headed by a woman who is divorced from her children's father receive regular and full payments.
- 50% of all white children growing up in single parent households, who do not receive support, live at or below the poverty level.
- 60% of all Hispanic children growing up in a single parent household, live at or below the poverty level.
- 70% of all black children growing up in single parent households, live at or below the poverty level.

Other Legislation

The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1997 introduced by Senator Herb Kohl and Senator Michael DeWine, will establish felony violations for failing to pay court ordered child support in interstate cases. This proposal has been amended in to the Juvenile Justice Prevention of the Youth Violence Bill.

The Personal Information Privacy Act of 1997 sponsored by Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Charles Grassley (R-IA), and Representative Franks. It is a response to concerns about disclosure of social security numbers.

Subsidy Termination for Overdue Payments Act of 1997 was introduced by Representative Michael Bilirakis (R-Fla) on January 9, 1997 and currently has 70 co-sponsors. This bill will prevent a non-custodial parent who is at least 60 days behind in child support payments from receiving any type of financial assistance from the Federal Government. They will not be able to get any type of federal loan or federal grant. Federal benefits that will be exempt are Social Security Retirement, Military Retirement, etc, because these benefits can be attached through an income withholding order to pay child support.

7/13 Child Support - ACES

Problems

- states - phones not being answered
- computer systems not working, even though certified
- base min being done

Why aren't feds doing more to push states? we pay 66%?

~~What~~

At least

1) Fed letter on case

cc: ACES

2) send them info from mailing list

- grad gains rep

→ state was as

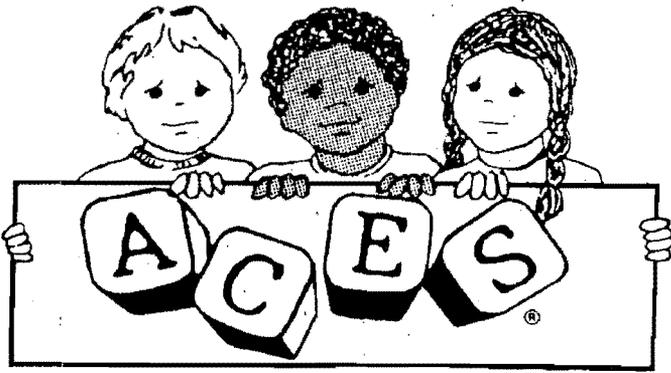
→ case that

Can we do regs
on NHDDB?
Service?
Incentives?

Financial

- give incentives
- 50% incentives
- 50% match
- New incentives furnish for work
- only need 5% increase

Kohl bill
Hype bill / IRS



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

July 27, 1999

Cynthia Rice, Chief
Domestic Policy - Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rice:

I am writing as a follow up to our meeting of July 11. Please advise us as about the following issues:

- ◆ What action you plan to take to get OCSE to become more responsive to complaints from families who are not receiving services, as required under the Title IV-D program, from State IV-D offices?
- ◆ Will the administration support HR 1488 and S 1036?
- ◆ Will the President issue an Executive Order allowing access to DNA records of servicemen, who are stationed overseas or unable to attend local proceedings? These DNA records could then be used to establish paternity when it cannot be done via other usual methods?

At the meeting, we discussed the need to change child support distribution regulations for families currently receiving TANF benefits. We appreciate the administration's interest in this issue. ACES is supporting S 1036 which would, in part, accomplish this goal. The best possible solution would be for states to pass through and disregard child support in the same manner as they do earned income for families as they transition off welfare. It would greatly benefit children. This would encourage parents to meet their child support obligations because they would see their payments benefitting their children.

ACES is very interested in possible changes to the IV-D funding formula and we hope to continue to work with you on this issue. Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,


Geraldine Jensen
ACES President

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WEBSITE: www.childsupport-aces.org

Child Support —

Access

Visitation

Grants

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of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the Federal Register. This rule is not a "major" rule as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

H. Petitions for Judicial Review

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by June 1, 1999. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Oxides of nitrogen, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Note: Incorporation by reference of the State Implementation Plan for the State of California was approved by the Director of the Federal Register on July 1, 1982.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

Laura Yoshii,

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region IX

Part 52, Chapter I, Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Subpart F—California

2. Section 52.220 is amended by adding paragraph (c) (256) (D) to read as follows:

§ 52.220 Identification of plan.

(c) * * *

(256) * * *

(i) * * *

(D) El Dorado County Pollution Control District.

(1) Rule 239 adopted on March 24, 1998.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 99-7668 Filed 3-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

45 CFR Part 303

RIN 0970-AB72

Child Support Enforcement Program; Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

AGENCY: Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), HHS.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule implements provisions contained in section 391 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and establishes the requirements for State monitoring, reporting and evaluation of Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs. Access and Visitation programs support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and visitation of their children by means of activities including mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pickup) and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 29, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Arnaudo, OCSE, Division of Automation and Special Projects, (202) 401-5364. Hearing impaired individuals may call the Federal Dual Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Statutory Authority

The final regulations are published under the authority of section 469B of the Social Security Act (the Act), as added by section 391 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) (Pub. L. 104-193), and section 1102 of the Act. Section 469B(e)(3) requires that each State receiving a grant for Access

and Visitation Programs shall monitor, evaluate, and report on such programs in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

Background

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

On March 31, 1998 a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was published in the Federal Register. Public comments were formally requested. Comments received in response to this request are discussed and summarized below.

History of Federal Involvement in Access and Visitation

The Federal financial involvement in access and visitation began when the Family Support Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-485) authorized up to \$4 million each year for fiscal years 1990 and 1991 for State demonstration projects to develop, improve, or expand activities designed to increase compliance with child access provisions of court orders. The legislation required an evaluation of these projects and a Report to Congress on the findings. In October 1996, the Department of Health and Human Services transmitted to Congress the report entitled, "Evaluation of the Child Access Demonstration Projects". The report indicated that requiring both parents to attend mediation sessions and developing parenting plans was successful for cases without extensive long-term problems.

In September, 1996, the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare submitted a report to the President and Congress which strongly endorsed additional emphases at all government levels, especially State and local levels, to ensure that each child from a divorced or unwed family have a parenting plan which encourages and enables both parents to stay emotionally involved with the child(ren).

Finally, PRWORA added a new provision at section 391 to award funds annually to States to establish and administer programs to support and facilitate non-custodial parents' (fathers or mothers) access to, and visitation of, their children. Activities funded by this program include mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision, neutral drop-off and pickup), development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements. States may administer programs directly or through contracts or grants with courts, local public agencies, or nonprofit private entities; States are not required to

operate such programs on a statewide basis.

Under this provision, the amount of the grant to be made to the State shall be the lesser of 90 percent of State expenditures during the fiscal year for activities just described or the allotment to the State for the fiscal year. The Federal government will pay for 90 percent of project costs, up to the amount of the grant allotment. In other words, States are required to provide for at least ten percent of project funding even if they do not spend their entire allotment. The allotment would be determined as follows: an amount which bears the same ratio to \$10,000,000 for grants as the number of children in the State living with only 1 biological parent bears to the total number of such children in all States. Such allotments are to be adjusted so that no State is allotted less than \$50,000 for fiscal years 1997 and 1998 or \$100,000 for any succeeding fiscal year. These funds may not be used to supplant expenditures by the State for authorized activities; rather, States shall use the grant to supplement such expenditures at a level at least equal to the level of such expenditures for fiscal year 1995.

In September 1997, the Office of Child Support Enforcement awarded 54 States and independent jurisdictions Access and Visitation Grants covering all the activities mentioned in the Act. A second round of grants was issued in September 1998; all States and Territories, except Guam, received grants. Guam did not apply.

Description of Regulatory Provisions

Paragraph 303.109(c) has been added to 45 CFR part 303 containing procedures for States to follow in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on their Grants for Access and Visitation Programs. This rule requires States to monitor all access and visitation programs to ensure that these programs are: (1) Providing services authorized under section 469B(a) of the Act; (2) being conducted efficiently and effectively; (3) complying with reporting and evaluation requirements, as set forth in paragraphs 303.109(b) and 303.109(c); and (4) providing appropriate safeguards to insure the safety of children and parents.

Paragraph 303.109(b) allows States to evaluate programs funded by section 469B of the Act, but does not require these programs to be evaluated. States are, however, required to assist in the evaluation of programs deemed significant or promising by the Department, as directed by program memorandum.

Paragraph 303.109(c) requires that States provide a detailed description of each funded program including such information as: service providers and administrators, service area, population served, program goals, application or referral process, referral agencies, nature of the program, activities provided, and length and features of a "completed" program. This paragraph also requires, with regard to programs which provide services: the number of applicants or referrals for each program, the total number of participating individuals and the number of persons completing program requirements by authorized activities (e.g., mediation, education etc.). This information will help the Office of Child Support Enforcement assess: (1) The demand for the program, the effectiveness of outreach and ability of the program to meet demand; (2) the services being delivered and the number and the characteristics of the individuals being served; and (3) whether such individuals are completing standard program requirements.

Paragraph 303.109(c)(3) requires States to report information specified in paragraphs 303.109(c)(1) and (c)(2) annually, collected at a date and in a form as the Secretary may prescribe.

Response to Comments

We received comments from representatives of 14 States and local IV-D agencies, national organizations, advocacy groups and private citizens on the proposed rule published March 31, 1998, in the Federal Register (63 FR 15351-53). A summary of the comments received and our responses follows; similar or identical comments have been grouped together:

Comment: One commenter suggested that § 303.109(a) of the regulation calling for monitoring of "all access and visitation programs" should be restricted to mean only those programs funded by DHHS' grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs and other funded programs.

Response: In this final rule, OCSE states that: "The State must monitor all programs funded under Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs" This addresses the commenter's concern. In one section of the NPRM this qualifier, "funded under Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs", was not used, thereby giving an inaccurate impression. It was not our intent to extend the monitoring requirement to other funded programs.

Comment: There was a concern among commenters that the regulation contains no requirement to monitor whether States are screening potential

clients for domestic violence (spousal or child abuse) to ensure that the battered spouse is not put at further risk.

Response: We share the concerns for safety expressed by commentators who wrote about domestic violence. Access and visitation by a non-custodial parent can lead to dangerous situations for some parents and their children. The safety of the custodial parents and their children must be addressed when it is a problem. It is our intent to encourage States to ensure safety when necessary in implementing grants under this program. States should develop procedures to assess the degree of danger, weighing sensitively the assertions of both parents.

In response to the comments, we have added to the regulation a new requirement under § 303.109(a) requiring States to monitor programs to safeguard against domestic violence, as follows:

"(a) *Monitoring.* The State must monitor all programs funded under Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs to ensure that the programs * * * contain safeguards to ensure the safety of parents and children."

Comment: Several commenters suggested that the regulation require specific approaches for addressing problems that may occur in activities funded by these grants. Concerns were noted regarding mandated mediation and supervised transfer and visitation of children.

Response: Since we wish to provide maximum flexibility to the States, we have not required specific approaches to dealing with issues of domestic violence. Consistent with our authority under the Statute to regulate what the States need to monitor, we require States to monitor their grantees to ensure that there are procedures in place and being used to ensure safety.

Regarding mandated mediation, we wish to make clear that the statute does not mandate mediation for any particular clients. Mediation mandated by the courts for contending parents is one service that the States may choose to fund. We recognize that in some cases, mediation may be dangerous for the victim of abuse. There is also evidence that in some cases involving partner abuse, mediation has been effective. This is a service that warrants careful monitoring by States to ensure that safety assessments are conducted. When it is determined not to be warranted, alternative forms of conflict resolution should be used.

States may choose to use their grants to fund supervised transfer and visitation of children by non-custodial

parents. Neutral drop-off or pickup of children (supervised transfer) is designed to provide for the transfer of children without danger for the abused parent or hostile actions between the parents when domestic violence or other situations involving acrimony between parents exist. Supervised visitation is designed to promote and protect the safety of the visited child. States should monitor such programs when funded by this authority (as discussed above) to ensure that adequate and appropriate procedures are in place and being used to ensure safety.

Comment: Commenters suggested that grantees be required to consult local domestic violence agencies about appropriate procedures for identifying and assisting battered parents.

Response: Based on our experience with other service sectors that have addressed domestic violence, consultation with community based domestic violence experts is often very useful. While requiring such consultation would go beyond the scope of this regulation, we do believe domestic violence experts have important experience and knowledge that can be useful to access and visitation programs. We encourage all access and visitation grantees to hold consultations with experts in the field of domestic violence.

Comment: One commenter wanted to include domestic violence as one category of participant data reported.

Response: We have not included domestic violence as a category of participant data reported because the quality of information collected is not likely to be consistent or useful. It would be difficult to reach any agreement for reporting responses on how domestic violence should be defined or how the determination would be made that domestic violence had occurred. Additionally, services and targeted clientele will vary widely from State to State, and even within States, making comparisons even more inappropriate. We do encourage States to use their own State protocols and definitions of domestic violence to monitor and evaluate how their programs are protecting the safety of parents and children.

Comment: One commenter suggested that Grants for Access and Visitation Programs be conducted by those with domestic violence training.

Response: The legislation mandates that the Governor of each State determine the organizational entity responsible for the grant program. Each State has the flexibility and responsibility to determine the services

to be provided and qualifications of the providers.

Comment: Another domestic violence related concern is that the final rule should acknowledge that domestic violence occurs in many of the access and visitation cases before the family court and, therefore, the statement that involvement by non-custodial parents is desirable for children should be dropped or amended.

Response: In response to the concern about domestic violence we have added to the regulations a requirement that all States monitor access and visitation programs to ensure that programs have safeguards to ensure the safety of parents and children.

Comment: One commenter stated that visitation and access should not be mandatory for the non-custodial parent. The commenter also suggests that evaluation requirements should look at the success of visitation and not just the number of visits.

Response: The Act does not require the noncustodial parent to visit the child; rather, it funds activities to facilitate and encourage non-custodial parents to participate in raising the child(ren) as determined appropriate by the parents and the court. There are no specific evaluation requirements placed on either State or Federal government evaluation activities regarding visitation programs or any other allowable services provided under the program. We would encourage any evaluators of visitation programs to carefully determine the most appropriate measures of success for program evaluation purposes.

Comment: One commenter had several suggestions:

(i) OCSE should include in the monitoring requirements that States assure that the Access and Visitation Programs funded under Federal grants do not merely replace existing programs.

Response: Section 469B(d) of the Act does not allow States to supplant or use Federal funds authorized under this Act to replace or displace State funds spent for the same purposes as specified by section 469B(a) of the Act. States must use these Federal grant funds to supplement these expenditures at a level at least equal to the level of such expenditures as existed in fiscal year 1995. States are required to follow all requirements in the statute, therefore, it is not necessary to repeat the requirement in the regulation.

(ii) OCSE should prohibit use of funds for programs that are available only to children of divorced or separated parents, on the one hand, or children of unmarried parents on the other hand.

Response: The philosophy of this Act is to allow States maximum flexibility. Some States may concentrate their efforts only on unwed families (or on divorced families) because there are already State programs serving other families. We would not want to limit the flexibility States have under this act to address unmet needs.

(iii) OCSE should require that the States report on the economic status of program participants.

Response: This has been done in the reporting requirements for a description of the program under § 303.109(c)(1) of this final regulation. Under these requirements States must report as follows:

(c) *Reporting:* the State must report a detailed description of each program funded, providing the following information as appropriate: * * * population served (income * * *) * * *

(iv) OCSE should involve experts on the life situations and needs of the children of unmarried parents in setting up their programs.

Response: The philosophy behind this program is to give the States maximum flexibility. Most States are delivering programs through experienced community-based organizations or court agencies.

Comment: One commenter noted that some States are using grant funds in the first year to assess which access and visitation program strategies to undertake; in such States there would be no reporting of cases. Reporting requirements are only where services are provided.

Response: It is appropriate to footnote any report with this information. Thus no change needs to be made to the regulation.

Comment: Two commenters had comments on reporting responsibilities and definitions as follows: In the requirement for description of project—§ 303.109(c)—an addition should be made for "outcome measures". There should be some data elements that measure whether the program is achieving its goals; the current data elements do not.

Response: We have chosen not to include outcome measures in our initial reporting requirements. First, States can and are providing a wide variety of services. It would be premature at this early stage of program implementation to specify a limited set of outcomes, that may or may not measure the outcomes or changes that States are attempting to achieve. Second, program outcomes in this area are often difficult and expensive to measure. Given the limited resources of this program it is more cost

effective to focus routine reporting on service delivery and use evaluation efforts to measure outcomes.

Comment: The data requirement for program "graduates" could be meaningless due to definitional inconsistencies between States and projects.

Response: For clarity, we have revised the wording to read: "Number of persons who have completed program requirements." Even though each program and project may have a different set of program requirements for recipients, this data element will measure the extent to which programs were successful in ensuring that participants completed these requirements.

Comment: In § 303.109(a) "effective" and "efficient" should be defined.

Response: Effective means whether the programs are actually doing what they are intended to do. Efficient means that they are accomplishing their mission using a reasonable amount of resources. Because each State may provide very different services there is no way to standardize these definitions for reporting purposes.

Comment: ACF should work with States to create a standardized database to track program information.

Response: Given the variety of programs, this is what we have attempted to do, while at the same time preserving State flexibility and minimizing burden.

Comment: "Urban/rural" as part of the required description of a project should be defined due to the different nature of rural and urban in States of different sizes.

Response: We are not making a change in the regulation. However, in the instructions that accompany the reporting form, we have indicated that an urban project is defined as operating within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) and that a rural project is defined as operating outside a SMSA. We have added the category "mixed" to cover a project area that serves both SMSA and non-SMSA areas.

Comment: There are two comments about reporting on the nature of the referral. One commenter suggested that the providers should have to report on the type of the referral. Another commenter indicated that in § 303.109(c)(2), referral reporting should distinguish between court-referred and self-referred.

Response: The regulation at § 303.109(c)(2) does indicate that the source of referral will be included in the reporting requirements. Source of referral will include such categories as courts, social services agencies,

responsible fatherhood programs, churches and self-referral. Additionally, the reporting forms will indicate whether clients are receiving services on a mandatory or voluntary basis. In general, mandatory services will include services that a court or other agency requires an individual to participate in. Voluntary services will include non-mandatory referrals and self-referrals. We believe these two categories of source of referral and mandatory versus voluntary participation will provide us with the information we need about the nature of participation. Self-referred relates to individuals signing up for access and visitation services on their own accord or on a voluntary basis.

Comment: What is meant by program participant families and individuals?

Response: We have revised the final rule to ask only for information on individuals. We have done this to avoid confusion about reporting of families or individuals. This is because in some cases only the non custodial parent receives services. However, sometimes services would be received jointly by both ex-spouses or father and mother as in the case of mediation. Occasionally the child is involved. As such, if we use family as a measure of service, all three of these types could be considered a family; however, the service provider is not given credit for the differential costs of serving different numbers of people. Also, use of individual as opposed to families is easier to do if the family under consideration changes (e.g., if a man applies for services, and then the ex-spouse becomes involved etc.). As such, we would have the States count individuals only and not families; however, on the survey form we would have individuals identified as non-custodial parents, custodial parents and/or child(ren) to provide a more precise definition.

Comment: Does this language contemplate a father and his family in a supervised visitation program? How about a custodial parent? Do all individuals in a family have to be recorded? More precision is needed in defining individuals and families.

Response: As discussed above, we have changed reporting to count individuals only. As such, if a family of three (e.g., husband, ex-spouse, and child) is served, States would count three individuals and not one family. The individual becomes the service unit. In the survey form, individuals would be counted as non-custodial parents, custodial parents and/or child(ren).

In the case of supervised visitation, a non-custodial father and a child or children and a third person (the

supervisor) are involved. However, only the non-custodial father and the child or children are served; this translates into two to three or more individual service units. The supervisor would not be considered a service unit since this is part of the service, not someone served.

Comment: The definition of when a program is significant to require an evaluation by the State should be defined. Will such evaluations be funded by the Federal government?

Response: The regulations permit, but do not require, States to evaluate their access and visitation programs. State initiated evaluations can be paid for out of State access and visitation grant funds or other State funds. States must cooperate in any federally initiated evaluations of the access and visitation grant program. It is not possible to determine in advance what type of programs might be considered significant or promising. These decisions will be based on our review of State program activities. Specific decisions regarding cost sharing will be made in the context of specific evaluation designs.

Comment: One commenter recommended that OCSE develop an on-line database for reporting of data. Client satisfaction should be reported.

Response: We will consider the suggestion for an on-line database. We have not included client satisfaction in the requirements since we wanted to avoid complexity and ambiguity.

Comment: One commenter believed that the requirement asking for information on race of recipients is inappropriate, and in many cases where work is handled by the phone, it would be awkward for mediators to ask the race question. The commenter recommended either eliminating this question or making it optional.

Response: We agree that there are circumstances in which it would be inappropriate or awkward. We will therefore include on the reporting form the designation "unknown" in recognition that sometimes this information cannot be collected.

Comment: One commenter felt that the State child support enforcement agency should not be required to report on the Access and Visitation Grants when the agency in the State administering this grant is not the child support agency.

Response: We agree. The reporting agency is the State agency administering the Access and Visitation Program. This, in many cases, is not the child support enforcement agency.

Comment: One commenter believed that enforcement of visitation rights is vital.

Response: Visitation enforcement is an allowable program activity under section 469B(a) of the Act. Since there are no specific reporting, monitoring, or evaluation provisions dealing with visitation enforcement in isolation, it is not specifically mentioned in the regulation.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The new regulation at § 303.109(c) contains an information collection requirement. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)), the Administration for Children and Families has submitted a copy of this section to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review and has received approval. The OMB control number is 0970-0178.

Legal Significance Statement: An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Secretary certifies, under 5 U.S.C. 605(b), as enacted by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (Pub. L. 96-354), that this final regulation will not result in a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The primary impact of the regulation will be on State governments, which are not considered small entities under this Act.

Executive Order 12866

Executive Order 12866 requires that regulations be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the priorities and principles set forth in the Executive Order. The Department has determined that the rule is consistent with these priorities and principles. Statutory provisions require States that receive grants for child access and visitation programs to monitor, evaluate, and report on such programs in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L.

104-4) requires that a covered agency prepare a budgetary impact statement before promulgating a rule that includes any Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year.

The Department has determined that this final rule will not impose a mandate that will result in the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of more than \$100 million in any one year. The Department has determined that this rule is not a significant regulatory action within the meaning of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Congressional Review of Rulemaking

This rule is not a major rule as defined in Chapter 8 of 5 U.S.C. List of Subjects 45 CFR Part 303

Child support, Grant programs—social programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs No. 93.597, Grants to States for Access and Visitation).

Dated: March 10, 1999.

Olivia A. Golden,

Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.

For reasons stated in the preamble, we are amending 45 CFR Part 303 as follows:

PART 303—STANDARDS FOR PROGRAM OPERATIONS

1. The authority citation of Part 303 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 651 through 658, 660, 663, 664, 666, 667, 1302, 1396a(a)(25), 1396b(d)(2), 1396b(o), 1396b(p), and 1396(k).

2. A new section 303.109 is added to read as follows:

§ 303.109 Procedures for State monitoring, evaluation and reporting on programs funded by Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs.

(a) *Monitoring.* The State must monitor all programs funded under Grants to States for Access and

Visitation Programs to ensure that the programs are providing services authorized in section 469B(a) of the Act, are being conducted in an effective and efficient manner, are complying with Federal evaluation and reporting requirements, and contain safeguards to insure the safety of parents and children.

(b) *Evaluation.* The State:

(1) May evaluate all programs funded under Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs;

(2) Must assist in the evaluation of significant or promising projects as determined by the Secretary;

(c) *Reporting.* The State must:

(1) Report a detailed description of each program funded, providing the following information, as appropriate: service providers and administrators, service area (rural/urban), population served (income, race, marital status), program goals, application or referral process (including referral sources), voluntary or mandatory nature of the programs, types of activities, and length and features of a completed program;

(2) Report data including: the number of applicants/referrals for each program, the total number of participating individuals, and the number of persons who have completed program requirements by authorized activities (mediation—voluntary and mandatory, counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement—including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pickup) and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements; and

(3) Report the information required in paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this section annually, at such time, and in such form, as the Secretary may require.

[FR Doc. 99-7667 Filed 3-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-P

ACES Demonstration at HHS Questions & Answers

4/15/99 10:39 AM

Q ACES (The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support) claims that HHS and the states are not doing enough to collect child support from delinquent parents who have crossed state lines. How do you respond?

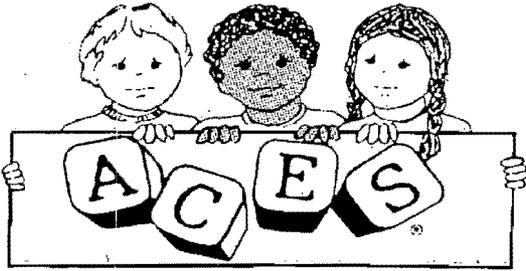
A The Clinton administration has always made child support enforcement a top priority. We've worked with states to improve collections and with the Congress to get the President's proposals for the toughest enforcement measures included in the 1996 welfare reform law. Since the President took office, collections have increased 80 percent to \$14.4 billion in 1998 from \$8 billion in 1992 and the number of families receiving support increased over 50 percent. We've also set records in seizing federal tax refunds, collecting over \$1.1 billion in 1997 and in establishing paternitys -- 1.3 million in 1997, an over three-fold increase since 1992. We recognize there is more to be done, especially in interstate cases and that's why we launched new national databases to find delinquent parents when they avoid child support by crossing state lines. In 1997, HHS started the National Directory of New Hires, which contains all employment records in the country. In its first year of operation, the directory found over 1.2 million delinquent parents. Last October, HHS opened the Federal Case Registry that will record all parents who owe child support, as many as 19 million parents and nearly 40 million children. With all our new resources, we are very confident that together the states and the federal government will make further improvements to help more children obtain the financial support they need and deserve.

Q Today, Congressman Henry Hyde introduced his bill to turn over the child support enforcement program to the IRS because states have failed to collect support. Do you support the bill?

A We don't support Congressman Hyde's bill. The child support enforcement program has always been a partnership between the federal and state government. We are very impressed by the improvement states have made over the past years -- an 80 percent increase in collections, three-fold increase in paternity establishments, over 50 percent increase in families receiving support. We are also in the early years of implementing the toughest enforcement measures ever enacted. We've already seen the new National Directory of New Hires find over 1.2 million delinquent parents who crossed state lines to avoid paying child support. We recognize there's more work to be done, but we're on the right track to help more children obtain the financial support they need and deserve.

Child Support

ACES



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

**ACES 15th Anniversary
Celebration in Los Angeles
Saturday, April 17th**

March 15, 1999

The Honorable President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C., CA 20500

Dear Mr. President,

ACES National President and Founder Geraldine Jensen ask me to invite you to our 15th Anniversary Celebration "Movement for Improvement" Event in Los Angeles. ACES has grown since 1984 to become the largest child support organization in the nation with 40,000 members and over 400 chapters in all 50 states. ACES has assisted families collect over \$1 billion in child support through our education and advocacy programs.

Please join us at the Hyatt West Hollywood on Sunset, 8401 Sunset Blvd, on Saturday, April 17th from 7:00pm to 11pm. ACES would like you to speak during our program from 8:00pm to 9:00pm. This important event will allow us to remember our past and help us look to future successes for children owed support. Please respond by Thursday, April 15th to let us know if you and/or your staff will be attending. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nora O'Brien

Nora O'Brien
ACES State Director

Enclosure: ACES invitation to "Movement for Improvement" Event



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

ACES, The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, of California cordially invites you to our
“Movement for Improvement” Event
on Saturday, April 17, 1999

Cocktail Hour -7:00 pm to 8:00pm
Hors D’oeuvres, Program, & Dancing -
8:00pm to 11:00pm

Hyatt West Hollywood on Sunset
8401 Sunset Boulevard West Hollywood
(Between La Cienega & Crescent Heights)

Please RSVP by Thursday, April 15th to
Nora O’Brien, ACES State Office
916 448-2004, Fax: 916 448-2117, or
Email: noaces@earthlink.net

For directions, please call Hyatt West Hollywood
Sunset at 323 656-1234



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

**ACES 15th Anniversary
Celebration in Los Angeles
Saturday, April 17th**

March 15, 1999

The Honorable Vice President Albert Gore
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C., CA 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President,

ACES National President and Founder Geraldine Jensen ask me to invite you to our 15th Anniversary Celebration "Movement for Improvement" Event in Los Angeles. ACES has grown since 1984 to become the largest child support organization in the nation with 40,000 members and over 400 chapters in all 50 states. ACES has assisted families collect over \$1 billion in child support through our education and advocacy programs.

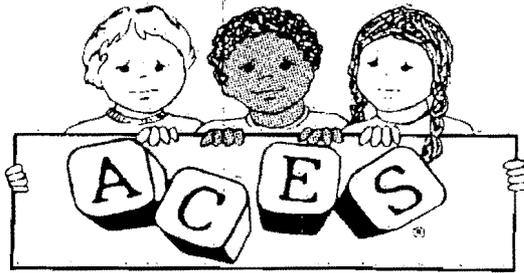
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Nora O'Brien

Nora O'Brien
ACES State Director

Enclosure: ACES invitation to "Movement for Improvement" Event



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

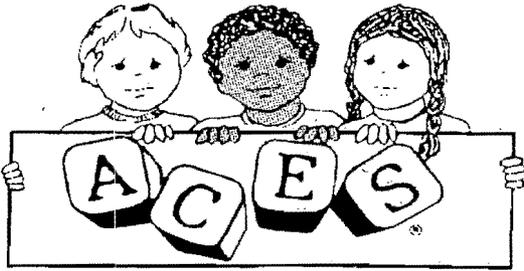
ACES, The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, of California cordially invites you to our
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(Between La Cienega & Crescent Heights)

Please RSVP by Thursday, April 15th to
Nora O'Brien, ACES State Office
916 448-2004, Fax: 916 448-2117, or
Email: noaces@earthlink.net

For directions, please call Hyatt West Hollywood Sunset
at 323 656-1234



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

**ACES 15th Anniversary
Celebration in Los Angeles
Saturday, April 17th**

March 15, 1999

The Honorable First Lady Hillary Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C., CA 20500

Dear First Lady,

ACES National President and Founder Geraldine Jensen ask me to invite you to our 15th Anniversary Celebration "Movement for Improvement" Event in Los Angeles. ACES has grown since 1984 to become the largest child support organization in the nation with 40,000 members and over 400 chapters in all 50 states. ACES has assisted women collect over \$1 billion in child support through our education and advocacy programs.

Please join Gerri Jensen and the rest of ACES at the Hyatt West Hollywood on Sunset, 8401 Sunset Blvd, on Saturday, April 17th from 7:00pm to 11pm. ACES would like you to speak during our program from 8:00pm to 9:00pm. This important event will allow us to remember our past and help us look to future successes for children owed support. Please respond by Thursday, April 15th to let us know if you and/or your staff will be attending. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nora O'Brien

Nora O'Brien
ACES State Director

Enclosures: ACES invitation to "Movement for Improvement" Event



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For directions, please call Hyatt West Hollywood
Sunset at 323 656-1234



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

ACES National Headquarters
2260 Upton Ave.
Toledo, OH 43606

419-472-0047 - voice
419-472-6295 - Fax

1-800-537-7072 - Hot Line

fax

to: Cynthia Ricie

fax #: 202-450-7431

from: DEAN JENSEN

date:

subject:

pages:

NOTES: DAVID Siegel - OCSE -
Problem - Tell FATHERS TO
TAKE CUSTODY FROM MOTHERS
NOW THIS!

Bein!

>>To: CSEfdbk@OCSE.DA@ACF.WDC

>>

>>Rob,

>>

>>Sounds good, but might we alert region so they can alert the state...if my
>>"hunch" is correct about ACES, that way the right thing are done with no
>>major difficulties...

>>

>>David Siegel,

>>Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS

>>202-401-9373

>>-----

>>From: CSEfdbk@OCSE.DA@ACF.WDC, on 1/28/99 9:23 AM:

>>We would probably refer her to the State CS Program Improvement Bureau,
>>which handles complaints about county operations and communicates with the
>>counties to resolve problems.

>>-----

>>From: David H Siegel@OCSE.DCS@ACF.WDC, on 1/27/99 3:33 PM:

>>Rob,

>>

>>Sounds like someone from ACES...the words are too similar to ACES...without
>>responding to the LA personal issues, how would PI normally answer if it
>>was a letter...would the region be asked to assist?

>>

>>David Siegel,

>>Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS

>>202-401-9373

>>-----

>>From: CSEfdbk@OCSE.DA@ACF.WDC, on 1/27/99 2:24 PM:

>>should we answer this?

>>

>>-----

>>From: "Web Server" <www@reddog.acf.dhhs.gov>, on 1/25/99 4:06 PM:

>>To: CSEfdbk@OCSE.DA@ACF.WDC

>>

>>lkwdlock@gte.net (Cynthia Gray) sent the following:

>>-----

>>WE NEED HELP! I don't know what to do everytime I think it's going to get
>>better with these CSE's it get's worse! Do you guys have a number I can
>>call to get advise from someone? I don't understand why I can get info on
>>my daughters father and they can't. I also don't understand why they wont
>>work with me and if they don't want to locate him, prosecute him or do
>>anything until I'm on welfare than why won't they help me to help myself
>>and tell me what they're doing and working on so I don't have to do so
>>much. Also why aren't they enforcing the laws like the deadbeat parent
>>punishment act? Do I have to wait until he reaches another 10 or 20
>>thousand from July of 98 or what. Also what's going on with this national
>>computer link that they all claim to have but don't know how to use or it
>>doesn't work right. I have lost almost everything I don't have much left to
>>loose why won't they help me and why do they encourage me to go on aide and
>>then aide is so hard to get? This is all so wrong I can't stand it. Why do
>>we have district attorney's collecting money? Didn't anyone look at this
>>idea before they enacted it? Wouldn't it be a better idea to have the IRS
>>the king of collections to do it? If we did it this way they wouldn't be
>>>walking around with that smug look on their faces. Also why can't we get
>>any help or a break on taxes or something when we don't get our support?
>>Why can't you guys make the states give our children medical insurance or
>>medical and make the dads pay it back instead of making up go to the free
>>clinic and making the sit up to 10 hours while the welfare people go to the
>>plush doctors office's? why? I just don't get it? I have worked myself
>>almost to death for 13 years I can't do it anymore. We (non aide people)
>>should get some help or credit for staying out of the system. We need our
>>money before the aide people or the state gets theirs. Why unless we go on
>>aide won't we get help and why are you letting these men run around not
>>caring for these kids. We can write laws all day long but if there's
>>no way and no one to enforce them they do us no good. How can I change
>>>this? If someone were to give me a list I will try to do it. I will try to
>>find people to help me. None of us in this situation can live like this. It
>>is not fair to us nor our children. We should be mothers and should be

>>spending our time with our children and caring for them not angry and
>>fighting to feed them which takes alot of time away from them. I just must
>>say also Los Angeles has got to be the worst CSE in the world. These people
>>couldn't collect money from a city worker. I know a guy who brags that he
>>owes \$33,000 and they won't touch him if he pays \$200 a month and \$50 in
>>backsupport but the interst a year is more than that. I have a sister that
>>is dying from cancer and is loosing her home she's owed \$47,000 and they
>>won't help her because she too ill to work with them. I know so many people
>>with the same story. I am owed close to \$20,000 they show in the computer
>>that he only owes \$400 I'm in LA and he's in UT. A friend did s
>>ome checking for me a found the guy even has a trust fund in KS and that he
>>has aliases and other social security numbers. They can't touch him because
>>he's a "crook" but if he gets a legit job and buys a car or a home and it
>>will have to be in his name not in the trust or through his family... What
>>a bunch of bull. I would think if it's a felony to owe so much hide out and
>>leave state than if his family's helping they're aiding and abeting a
>>felon??? So ok it's not that easy but it should be. It should be black or
>>white. This is so wrong. It is child abuse. I have never gotten a dime for
>>my little Savannah. I want to get this worked out before she's old enough to
>>know about it. I have attended every political function I can to speak and
>>be heard but very few listen. I went to the board of supervisors hearings
>>and I got a little help but they can't fight with another elected official
>>like Gil Garcetti and he won't dump Wayne Doss. I just don't know what to
>>do. Can you guys give me some advise? I'd really appr
>>eciate it!
>>Thanks
>>Cynthia Gray

1 cont

>>Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
>>Remote host: lcust44.tnt3.long-beach.ca.da.uu.net
>>Remote IP address: 208.255.163.44
>>
>
>
>

Geni Jovan

① Fathers/employment

- why can't they sign paternity on the spot?
- if blood test needed, do we want to smell that have to disenroll them later?

② Seeking support on behalf

- treat child support like earned income
 - pass through to families
- Dad on SSI / Mom on TANF
 - why not dependent check from Dad if Dad on SSI (like SSDI)
- Get rid of fees (Ark, NMex, Fed)
 - \$175 / \$275 / \$300
 - taken out of support

(3) NHDB

→ producing matches which are falling
into abyss

→ States not required to trade what
they produce

→ Ohio 98,000 sitting in Columbus



Child Support Information Booklet

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN FOR
ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT, INC.

2260 Upton Avenue

Toledo, Ohio 43606

(419) 472-6609

1-800-738-ACES

National

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This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

STATE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OFFICES*Updated June 1997*

A | C | D | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | V | W

**[1] = In-State Only, [2] = Nationwide

A**ALABAMA**

Department of Human Resources
Division of Child Support
50 Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-1801
(334) 242-9300
FAX: (334) 242-0606
1-800-284-4347 [1]

Private parents organization
Association for Children

ALASKA

Child Support Enforcement Division
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99501-6699
(907) 269-6900
FAX: (907) 269-6813
1-800-478-3300 [1]

ARIZONA

Division of Child Support Enforcement
P.O. Box 40458
Phoenix, AZ 85067
(602) 252-4045
(non toll-free number)

ARKANSAS

Office of Child Support Enforcement
P.O. Box 8133
Little Rock, AR 72203
Street Address: 712 West Third
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-8398
FAX: (501) 682-6002
1-800-264-2445 [2] (Payments)
1-800-247-4549 [2] (Program)

C**CALIFORNIA**

Office of Child Support
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 944245
Sacramento, CA 95244-2450

(916) 654-1532
FAX: (916) 657-3791
1-800-952-5253 [1]

COLORADO

Division of Child Support Enforcement
1575 Sherman Street, 2nd Floor
Denver, CO 80203-1714
(303) 866-5994
FAX: (303) 866-2214
(no toll-free number)

CONNECTICUT

Department of Social Services
Bureau of Child Support Enforcement
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06105-5033
(860) 424-5251
FAX: (860) 951-2996 1-800-228-5437 [2](problems)
1-800-647-8872 [2](information)
1-800-698-0572 [2](payments)

D

DELAWARE

Division of Child Support Enforcement
Delaware Health and Social Services
1901 North Dupont Hwy
P.O. Box 904
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 577-4863, 577-4800
FAX: (302) 577-4873
(no toll-free number)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of Paternity and
Child Support Enforcement
Department of Human Services
800 9th Street, S.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20024-2480
(202) 645-7500
(no toll-free number
)

F

FLORIDA

Child Support Enforcement Program
Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 8030
Tallahassee, FL 32314-8030
(904) 922-9590
FAX: (904) 488-4401

(no toll-free number)

G

GEORGIA

Child Support Enforcement
P.O. Box 38450
Atlanta, GA 30334-0450
(404) 657-3851
FAX: (404) 657-3326
1-800-227-7993 [1] (for 706 &
912 area codes)
(from area codes 404 & 770,
dial code + 657-2780)

GUAM

Department of Law
Child Support Enforcement Office
238 Archbishop F.C. Flores, 7th Floor
Agana, GU 96910
011 (671) 475-3360 (no toll-free number)

H

HAWAII

Child Support Enforcement Agency
Department of Attorney General
680 Iwilet Street, Suite 490
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 587-3695
(no toll-free number)

I

IDAHO

Bureau of Child Support Services
Department of Health and Welfare
450 West State Street, 5th Floor
Boise, ID 83720-5005
(208) 334-2479
FAX: (208) 334-0666
1-800-356-9868 [2]

ILLINOIS

Child Support Enforcement Division
Illinois Department of Public Aid
509 South Sixth
Marriott Building
P.O. Box 19405
(217) 524-4602
FAX: (217) 524-4608
1-800-447-4278[1]

INDIANA

Child Support Bureau
402 West Washington Street, Rm W360
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-5437
FAX: (317) 233-4932 [2]

IOWA

Bureau of Collections
Department of Human Services
Hoover Building - 5th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-5580
FAX: (515) 281-8854
(no toll-free number)

K

KANSAS

Child Support Enforcement Program
Department of Social &
Rehabilitation Services
P.O. Box 497
Topeka, KS 66601
Street Address:
300 S.W. Oakley Street,
Biddle Building
Topeka, KS 66606
(913) 296-3237
FAX: (913) 296-5206 1-800-432-0152 [2](Withholding)
1-800-570-6743 [2](Collections)
1-800-432-3913 [2](Fraud Hotline)

KENTUCKY

Division of Child Support Enforcement
Cabinet for Human Resources
P.O. Box 2150
Frankfort, KY 40602
(502) 564-2285
FAX: (502) 564-5988

L

LOUISIANA

Support Enforcement Services
Office of Family Support
P.O. Box 94065
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4065
(504) 342-4780
FAX: (504) 342-7397
1-800-256-4650 [1] (Payments)

M

MAINE

Division of Support Enforcement
and Recovery
Bureau of Income Maintenance
Department of Human Services
State House Station
11 Whitten Road
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-2886
FAX: (207) 287-5096
1-800-371-3101[1]

MARYLAND

Child Support Enforcement
Administration
Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 767-7619
FAX: (410) 333-8992
1-800-332-6347[1]

MASSACHUSETTS

Child Support Enforcement Division
Department of Revenue
141 Portland Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1937
(617) 577-7200
FAX: (617) 621-4991
1-800-332-2733[2]

MICHIGAN

Office of Child Support
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909
Street Address:
235 South Grand Ave., Suite 1406
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 373-7570
FAX: (517) 373-4980
(no toll-free number)

MINNESOTA

Office of Child Support Enforcement
Department of Human Services
444 Lafayette Road, 4th floor
St. Paul, MN 55155-3846
(612) 296-2542
FAX: (612) 297-4450
(no toll-free number)

MISSISSIPPI

Division of Child Support Enforcement
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 352
Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 359-4861
FAX: (601) 359-4415
1-800-434-5437 (Jackson)[2]
1-800-354-6039 (Hines,
Rankin & Madison Cnties.)

MISSOURI

Department of Social Services
Division of Child Support Enforcement
P.O. Box 2320
Jefferson City, MO 65102-2320
(573) 751-4301
FAX: (573) 751-8450
1-800-859-7999 [2]

MONTANA

Child Support Enforcement Division
Department of Public Health
and Human Services
P.O. Box 202943
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 442-7278
FAX: (406) 444-1370
1-800-346-5437 [1]

N

NEBRASKA

Child Support Enforcement Office
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 95044
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-9160
FAX: (402) 471-9455
1-800-831-4573 [1]

NEVADA

Child Support Enforcement Program
Nevada State Welfare Division
2527 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89710
(702) 687-4744
FAX: (702) 684-8026
1-800-922-0900[1]

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Office of Child Support

Division of Human Services
Health and Human Services Building
6 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301-6531
(603) 271-4427
FAX: (603) 271-4787
1-800-852-3345 ext. 4427 [1]

NEW JERSEY

Division of Family Development
Department of Human Services
Bureau of Child Support and
Paternity Programs CN 716
Trenton, NJ 08625-0716
(609) 588-2915
FAX: (609) 588-2354
1-800-621-5437 [2]

NEW MEXICO

Child Support Enforcement Bureau
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 25109
Santa Fe, NM 87504
Street Address:
2025 S. Pacheco
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 827-7200
FAX: (505) 827-7285
1-800-432-6217 [1]

NEW YORK

Office of Child Support Enforcement
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 14
Albany, NY 12260
Street Address:
One Commerce Plaza
Albany, NY 12260
(518) 474-9081
FAX: (518) 486-3127
1-800-343-8859

NORTH CAROLINA

Child Support Enforcement Section
Division of Social Services
Department of Human Resources
100 East Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609-7750
(919) 571-4114
FAX: (919) 571-4126
1-800-992-9457 [1]

NORTH DAKOTA

Department of Human Services
Child Support Enforcement Agency
P.O. Box 7190
Bismarck, ND 58507-5497
(701) 328-3582
FAX: (701) 328-5497
1-800-755-8530 [1]

O

OHIO

Office of Child Support Enforcement
Department of Human Services
30 East Broad Street - 31st Floor
Columbus, OH 43266-0423
(614) 752-6561
FAX: (614) 752-9760
1-800-686-1556 [1]

OKLAHOMA

Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 53552
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
Street Address:
2409 N. Kelley Avenue
Annex Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
(405) 522-5871
FAX: (405) 522-2753
1-800-522-2922 [2]

OREGON

Recovery Services Section
Adult and Family Services Division
Department of Human Resources
260 Liberty Street, N.E.
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-5567
FAX: (503) 391-5526
1-800-850-0288 [1]
1-800-850-0294 [1] Rotary

P

PENNSYLVANIA

Bureau of Child Support Enforcement
Department of Public Welfare
P.O. Box 8018
Harrisburg, PA 17105
(717) 787-3672
FAX: (717) 787-9706
1-800-932-0211 [2]

PUERTO RICO

Child Support Enforcement
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3349
San Juan, PR 00902-9938
Street Address:
Majagua Street, Bldg. 2
Wing 4, 2nd Floor
Miramar, PR 00902-9938
(787) 767-1500
FAX: (787) 723-6187
(no toll-free number)

R**RHODE ISLAND**

Rhode Island Child Support Services
Department of Human Services
77 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-2847
FAX: (401) 277-6674
1-800-922-0536 [1]

S**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Department of Social Services
Child Support Enforcement Division
P.O. Box 1469
Columbia, SC 29202-1469
(803) 737-5875
FAX: (803) 737-6032
1-800-768-5858 [2]
1-800-768-6779 [1] (Payments)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Office of Child Support Enforcement
Department of Social Services
700 Governor's Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3641
FAX: (605) 773-5246
(no toll-free number)

T**TENNESSEE**

Child Support Services
Department of Human Services
Citizens Plaza Building - 12th Floor
400 Deadrick Street
Nashville, TN 37248-7400
(615) 313-4880

FAX: (615) 532-2791
1-800-874-0530 [1] (Payments)

TEXAS

Office of the Attorney General
State Office
Child Support Division
P.O. Box 12017
Austin, TX 78711-2017
(512) 460-6000
FAX: (512) 834-9712
1-800-252-8014 [2]

U

UTAH

Bureau of Child Support Services
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 45011
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0011
(801) 536-8500
FAX: (801) 536-8509
1-800-257-9156 [2]

V

VERMONT

Office of Child Support
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-1901
(802) 244-1483
FAX: (802) 244-1483
1-800-786-3214 [2]

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Paternity and Child Support Division
Department of Justice
GERS Building, 2nd Floor
48B-50C Kronprans Gade
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(809) 774-4339
FAX: (809) 774-9710
(no toll-free number)

VIRGINIA

Division of Support Enforcement
Department of Social Services
730 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 692-1428
FAX: (804) 692-1405
1-800-468-8894 [1]

W**WASHINGTON**

Division of Child Support
Department of Social and Health Services
P.O. Box 9162
Olympia, WA 98507-9162
Street address:
712 Pear Street, S.E.
Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 586-3162
FAX: (206) 586-3274
1-800-457-6202 [2]

WEST VIRGINIA

Child Support Enforcement Division
Department of Health & Human Resources
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 817
Charleston, WV 25305
(304) 558-3780
1-800-249-3778 [2]

WISCONSIN

Division of Economic Support
P.O. Box 7935
Madison, WI 53707-7935
Street Address:
1 West Wilson Street
Room 382
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-9909
FAX: (608) 267-2824
(no toll-free number)

WYOMING

Child Support Enforcement
Department of Family Services
Hathaway Building
2300 Capital Avenue, 3rd Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0490
(307) 777-7631
FAX: (307) 777-3693
1-800-457-3659 [2]



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

February 11, 1998

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

ACES, Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, asks you to co-sponsor S. 1293, the Rockefeller-Snowe Child Support Performance Improvement Act of 1997. S. 1293 will improve the federal child support incentives structure and help states increase their collections.

The current federal incentive structure is based solely on cost effectiveness of the state child support enforcement program. This steers states away from "hard" cases such as evasion of child support or establishing paternity, among others. Restructuring the ineffective incentives structure will: improve children's financial well being and stability, allow single parents to remain financially independent and reduce federal welfare and health care expenditures.

According to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Work Group, various factors, when achieved successfully, can be looked at as the basis for incentives: establishment of paternity, establishment of child support orders, collections on current child support payments, collection of arrearages, and cost effectiveness. With a set minimum performance, any state falling below the minimum would receive no incentive unless a significant improvement was made over the previous year's performance.

The Rockefeller-Snowe Bill (S. 1293) improves upon the HHS Work Group recommendations in three ways: creation of a new medical support performance incentive, states reinvest incentive payments in their child support payments in their child support programs and ensure reliable data collection with federal audits and technical assistants.

ACES is the largest child support organization in the nation with over 350 chapters in 47 states and 35,000 members nationwide. ACES members are families whose children are entitled to support. We have joined together for improved child support enforcement services in the United States. S. 1293 will help in providing justice for the millions of children owed support.

Sincerely,
ACES

Geraldine Jensen, President



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

November 25, 1997

The Honorable Representative
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

ACES, Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, asks you to co-sponsor HR 2925, the *Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1997*. HR 2925 will help thousands of children entitled to child support whose non-custodial parents live in another state and fail to provide support by making this a federal felony offense. Please show your support by co-sponsoring HR 2925.

There are currently 30 million children across the United States who are owed over \$41 billion in unpaid child support. Thirty percent of these statistics, which translates to 9 million children being owed over \$12 billion, involve cases across state lines. The children are the innocent victims of family break up and non-support. This bill sends the message that nonpayment of child support is crime against the children. Parents who neglect their children by failing to meet their legal and moral child support obligations simply transfer the costs of raising these children on to the rest of society. They should no longer be rewarded for such action.

This bill will strengthen the Child Support Recovery Act of 1992 by increasing the penalties for failure to pay support in interstate cases from a federal misdemeanor to a federal felony. Stronger enforcement techniques are needed in interstate cases and this bill will definitely succeed in making nonpayment of child support a felony offense.

ACES is the largest child support organization in the nation with over 350 chapters in 47 states and 35,000 members nationwide. ACES members are families whose children are entitled to support. We have joined together for improved child support enforcement services in the United States. HR2925 will help in providing justice for the millions of children owed support.

Sincerely,

ACES

Geraldine Jensen
President

ACES NATIONAL, 2260 UPTON AVE., TOLEDO, OH 43606
1-800-537-7072 · FAX 419-472-6295

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401-5180

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Performance standards bill

S 1293 Snow Rockefeller bill

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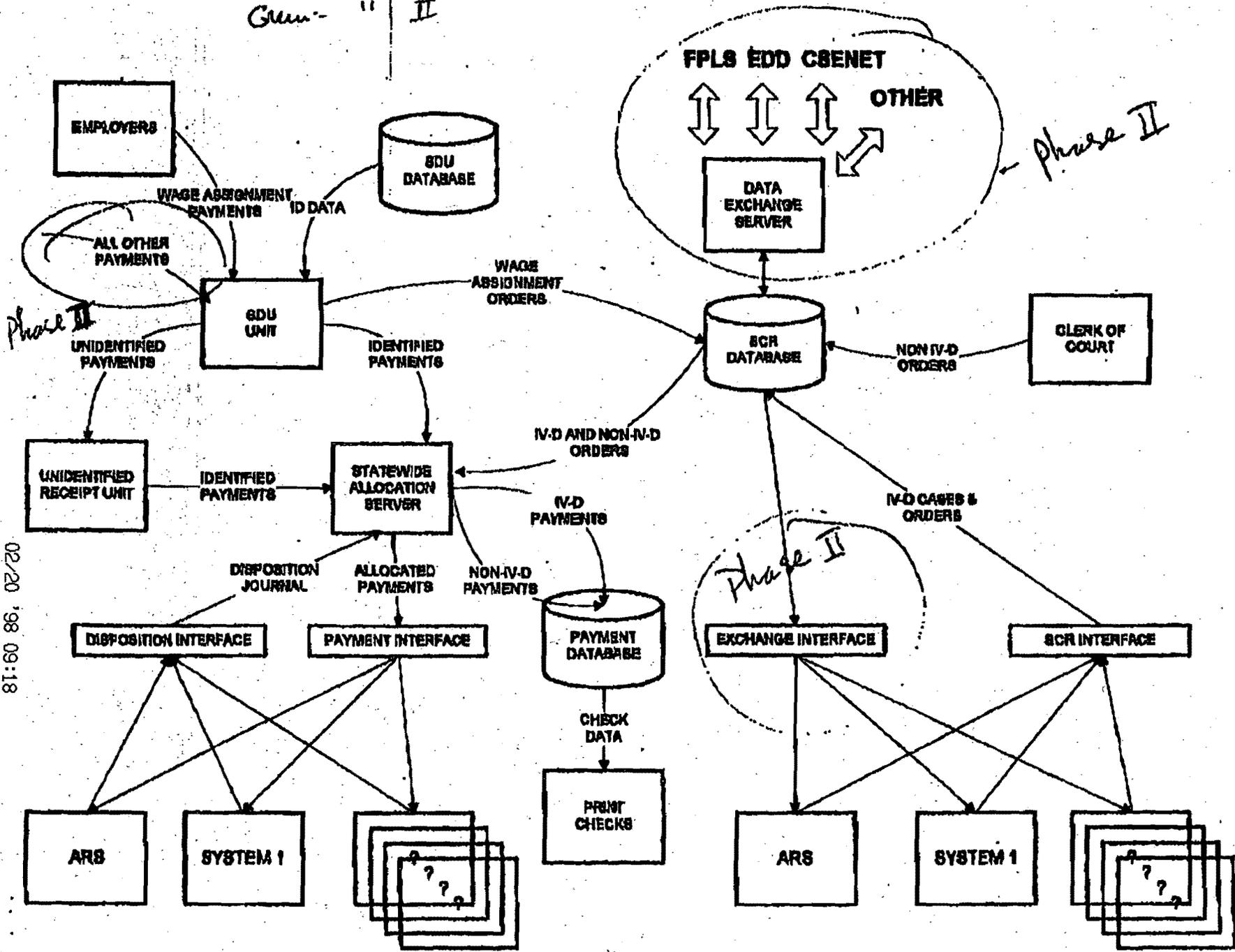
→ industry wants

Bob Graham

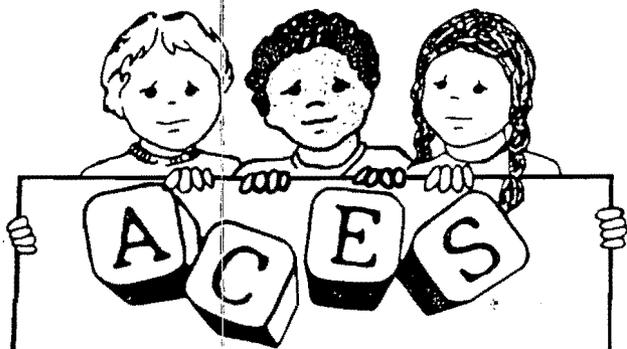
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support if we will

House | Hyde will hold hearings on Hoyer bill

Red = Phase I
Green = " II



02/20 '98 09:18



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

ACES Opposes allowing states to have computer systems which consist of several systems. Single parents want a single statewide system. Multi-systems have a history of being slow and ineffective. ACES opposes reducing penalties on state government for failure to comply with Welfare Reform laws for setting up automated statewide child support systems. A 4% penalty of federal funding is not significant enough to promote needed political and structural change. ACES believes states incentive payments should be withheld until computers are in place and certified.



DATE: _____

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
200 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

PHONE: (202) 690-6311

FAX: (202) 690-8425

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION
HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATION
ROOM 413 H HUMPHREY BUILDING

FROM:

TO : Cynthia Rice

OFFICE : _____

ROOM NO : _____

PHONE NO : _____

FAX NO : 456-7431

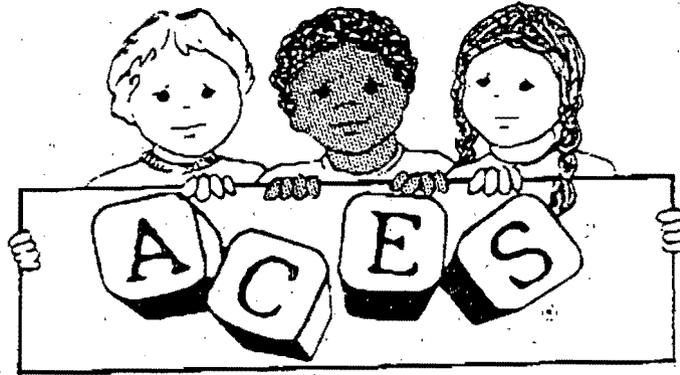
- MARY M. BOURDETTE
- BARBARA P. CLARK
- GREG JONES
- PATRICIA BRAVO
- AMY LOCKHART
- LAUREN GRIFFIN
- LULA BARNES

TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER) : _____

REMARKS:

Cynthia -

Here is Berri Jensen's testimony.



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF GERALDINE JENSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE
ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT, INC.
(ACES) HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND
MEANS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29, 1998**

Good Morning, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am here today to represent the 35,000 ACES members who are families entitles to child support. The decisions you make on the child support computer penalties are the first test of just how serious Congress is about welfare reform . The decision you make will set the pace for action or inaction by state government as they implement the provisions of the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Act. ACES members and other low income families are looking at you today to see if Congress was serious about self- sufficiency for all American families or if the welfare reform law was merely more political rhetoric and broken promises to children entitled to child support .

Under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Act a mother who receives public assistance in the form of TANF who fails to meet her child support cooperation obligation loses a minimum of 25% of her TANF (federal funding). The state can choose to take even more than that, up to and including cutting the entire family, 42 U.S.C. Section 608 (a)(2)

A TANF mother has a maximum of two years to find some kind of work. If she does not do so, she loses all of her TANF funded assistance 42 U.S.C. Section 602 (a) (1)(A)(ii)

In 1988, states were given 7 years to put a working child support enforcement tracking computer in place. When they missed this deadline, the Personal Responsibility Act extended it two years to Oct. 1997. Now that they have missed this deadline they are back asking for more time and little or no penalties.

Why should state government not face up to loss of federal funding when low income mothers must. ACES believes that the government should have to comply with the laws just as the people they govern. A mother has five years, not seven, to meet the deadline

for achieving self sufficiency, she gets no exceptions. The penalty she faces is loss of all federal funding. Of course if the child support system had gotten child support for her children she might have become self sufficient. If you allow the states failure to meet deadlines to result in extension and insignificant penalties such as 4% in year one, 8% in the second year and 12% in year three while you take 25%- 100% of a mother's federal funding away due to failure to comply, it will show that Congress has truly forgotten the people it is here to serve and protect. When government gets more of a break than the people, we are nowhere near what the founding fathers outlined in the Bill of Rights; a government for the people by the people. Instead we have become a government for the government by the government.

ACES is the largest child support organization in the U.S. with 350 chapters in 48 states. ACES 35,000 members are families entitled to child support enforcement services from government IV-D agencies. The average ACES member earns about \$12,000 per year, she has two children who have not received any support payments in over two years. She and her children are partly, fully or have in the past been reliant upon public assistance due to lack of child support payments to help pay for food, clothing, shelter, health care, day care and educational opportunities. ACES members and many other low income families have been dramatically affected by welfare reform and failure of states to establish paternity, support orders and enforce child support orders. There are now 29 million children owed \$40 Billion.

ACES understands that the issue of penalizing states for failure to put statewide child support computers in place is complicated and difficult. If the current penalty stands, states lose all their funding to operate IV-D child support programs. This will harm families in need of services, even those who receive payment could be affected if states did not have operating funds to process support payments. However, the current proposal of lowering the penalty and removal of the single statewide computer requirement will not solve the political structural problems states are facing. This will not improve child support enforcement, it will only ease the pressure on state government thereby allowing more children to go to bed hungry due to lack of child support systems.

There are two important issues. The first is the proposal to dismantle the single statewide computer system. This can not be allowed, even if each state has only one system hooking all 50 of them together into a national tracking system, it is unlikely and can only occur with sophisticated technology. We live in a world when technology exists to make Macintosh computers talk to IBM computers, Microsoft Word can be converted into Word Perfect. But who wants to do this? The process is long, cumbersome and not always accurate. Often the result is a jumbled up document. Why would the federal government want to set in process a system where Ohio's 88 counties could each have their own computer, each 83 Michigan County Friend of the Court and each of

California's 58 counties all have separate computers that have to be strung together in some fashion to work? Yes, technology exists but not all technology is good, usable, and certainly many are not user friendly. Just because we can, does not mean that we should. Just like cloning a human may be possible does not mean we should.

It is ridiculous to believe that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can set up a process to ensure that any state who chooses to string together several computers results in a working statewide system. This is the same agency that just oversaw giving states government \$2 billion for statewide computers of which many are broken or non-existent. (See attached: State Computer Problem Examples) California is a perfect example; a \$370 million system had to be scrapped, this was approved and paid for 90% by the federal government at the recommendation of HHS. In the past HHS approved a system of four separate computers for public assistance in California. These four computers do not work well together and currently, it takes over one year to transfer a welfare case between California counties. This dismal system was approved by HHS and paid for by the federal government. Single parents entitled to child support want single statewide computer systems.

The second issue is the penalty. ACES believes that states should be penalized for failure to comply with the Personal Responsibility Act. We do not support cutting operating funds that are needed to provide families IV-D child support enforcement services. We do not support cutting TANF payments to states, this will only harm TANF recipients, 87% of these are the families dependant on public assistance benefits because child support payments were not collected We do support cutting the bonus payments states receive for collecting child support. These incentive payments usually provide states the state share of child support funds. We do not believe that a 4% cut in operating funds while continuing to give states a "bonus" sends a strong message that congress will not tolerate non-compliance with Welfare Reform laws.

ACES could only support a 4% penalty if only 4% of the federal funding to low income families on welfare is cut when they fail to follow federal welfare reform laws. It seems to us that what is good for the government, or deemed a significant enough penalty against state government for failure to comply with the welfare reform laws, should be considered significant enough for the people that are governed.

It is sheer hypocrisy to let state government get away with violating federal welfare laws, while at the same time poor families lose all their funding when they fail to show up for job training or fail to get a job. They are told that the fact the car didn't start, the baby sitter didn't show, or that there are no jobs available are not good enough excuses. States say federal child support computer regulations weren't clear enough, that all the states had the same 7 years to get the system in place but there were not enough vendors do all 50 states in 7 years, that it is not politically possible to comply because the California

District Attorney's will not cooperate, or the Michigan County Friends of the Courts won't cooperate, or two of the Indiana Prosecutors refuse to allow the computer in their counties. These excuses are unacceptable. State government should have to comply with federal welfare laws in the same way that families must comply.

Some say that this failure of state government to implement child support provision of the welfare reform laws is just the beginning. States can't do it, block grants won't work and Congress isn't really serious about reform because they will never hold state government's feet to the fire in a way that will produce meaningful change. ACES sincerely hopes these critics are wrong. The action you take sends the first message to states about your real welfare reform intentions. Was it all just for show at election time, or are you going to lead in away that produces real change?

Maybe it is time to just give up on the states operating the child support enforcement system after all, they have been in charge for 22 years and the best results they can produce are 50% of the cases having orders and 20% of their caseload receiving payments. We do not have 80% unemployment anywhere in the U.S.. Since almost 40% of the cases are interstate and it is not a local problem like public assistance maybe it is time for a different and better state- federal partnership. One that is not the federal government providing money, and the states do what they want. ACES supports HR 2189, sponsored by Rep. Henry Hyde (IL) and Rep. Lynn Woolsey (CA) which would leave establishment of orders and paternity and modification of orders at the state level and place enforcement of orders with the IRS and disbursement of payments with Social Security. Congress is in the process of re- structuring the IRS, and their role in Child support enforcement could be easily expanded. The IRS has consistently had increases in the amount of child support collected each year through attachment of IRS refunds, they broke the one billion dollar mark in collections this past year. This means that the IRS already collects a substantial portion of child support each year. We have a Social Security system that ensures support to children whose parents are dead or disabled, isn't it time we had a system that collects support for children with living and working parents?

Summary of recommendations/comments in this statement

ACES Opposes allowing states to have computer systems which consist of several systems. Single parents want a single statewide system. Multi-systems have a history of being slow and ineffective. ACES opposes reducing penalties on state government for failure to comply with Welfare Reform laws for setting up automated statewide child support systems. A 4% penalty of federal funding is not significant enough to promote needed political and structural change. ACES believes states incentive payments should be withheld until computers are in place and certified.

Geraldine Jensen
2260 Upton
Toledo, OH 43606
(419) 472-6609

* ACES is a non-profit organization. We do not receive any government funding.

STATE COMPUTER PROBLEM EXAMPLES

History of the Failing State Child Support Computer Systems

Under the Child Support Amendments of 1984, the states were eligible to begin receiving 90% federal funding for the development and installation of statewide computer tracking systems. In 1988 most states failed to have a system in place, so the 1988 Family Support Act required the states to have systems on-line by October 1, 1995. Only one state, Montana met the October 1, 1995 deadline. States were able to talk Congress into extending the deadline until October 1, 1997. Since then, only six other states (Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming) have obtained certification.

Fifteen other states (Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Georgia, Guam, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, Wisconsin, and West Virginia) have conditional certifications which means that the system is missing at least one of the components. One example of a *conditional certification* is West Virginia - the computer is having problems with communication between welfare and child support.

Cost: Data from the GAO and OCSE indicates that since the states have been eligible to receive federal funding, they have spent over \$2.6 billion on state computer systems.

Summary of Findings: Generally, the majority of states complained about having to comply with the Federal Regulations for developing the state computer systems, as outlined in the 1988 Family Support Act. Many states also complained that they were dissatisfied with the written Federal Regulations and the lack of specific guidelines from the federal government.

- 23 states had to use more than one vendor, which made this the most common problem reported. In fact, Michigan reported using 12 - 15 different vendors to develop their system and Florida is currently being sued for over \$100 million by a previous vendor.
- 19 states reported problems with converting the data from the old child support systems into the new one.
 - 4 of these states reported problems with manually data entering information from the hard copies of the child support case files.
- 19 states reported other technical problems which include:
 - 8 systems were not sending the payments out to the families;
 - 6 states had problems finding the technical expertise to develop the system;
 - 2 systems could not process interstate cases and
 - 2 state computer systems would not interface with the existing welfare computer systems

State Specific Problems:

Michigan: MICSES (Michigan Child Support Enforcement System)

The statewide computer system in its present form has been under development since 1984 and has cost the state well over \$200 million.

October 1, 1995: The first deadline and the system is not functioning statewide.

1996: The state projected that the system would be on-line by October 1997.

The seven major metro counties do not want the state's system because it is incapable of handling the caseload in the larger counties. Eighty percent of the state's entire child support caseload of 1.6 million is in these seven counties. The Oakland County Friend of the Court kicked the system developers out and would not let them back in the agency.

One of the many vendors, ATEK filed a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy while developing the system which caused a huge turnover in vendor staff.

Early 1997: the Michigan Auditor's Office released a report stating that MICES is not capable of handling the caseload in the seven metro counties and recommends that the system be scrapped and a new one developed. The state agrees and scraps the system.

Gerald Miller, the Director of the Family Independence Agency, the state office responsible for child support in Michigan resigns and goes to work for Lockheed IMS.

Mid 1997: The state begins to accept bids from computer vendors including Lockheed IMS for the development of the new computer system in Michigan.

October 1, 1997: The second deadline is missed by Michigan.

Indiana: ISETS (Indiana Support Enforcement Tracking System)

The statewide computer system in its present form has been under development since in 1990 with a total projected cost of over \$40 million.

October 1, 1995: The first deadline is missed in Indiana.

1996: The state projects that ISETS will be online by February 1997.

The different county agencies involved in the child support program are fighting over who has control of the computer system.

1997: Two of the 92 Prosecutors responsible for running the county administered child support system in Indiana refuse to put ISETS in their counties.

October 1, 1997: Indiana does not meet the second deadline for having a fully operational statewide child support computer system.

California: Statewide Automated Child Support System (SACSS)

1984-87: Nothing is done to implement SACSS while millions of children go hungry in California.

1987-1990: Family Support Council in California demands from Department of Social Services (DSS) that they pressure the Federal Government into allowing them to have a separate computer

system in every county. The Federal Government replies "NO".

1990: DSS submits an Advanced Planning Document for implementation of a uniform state system.

1991: California hires a contractor to write specifications for a company to bid a contract on the computer system.

1992: The Federal Office Of Child Support puts out its detailed regulations - setting standards for the computer systems

late 1992- The Federal Office of Child Support approves California's plan and Lockheed is awarded the implementation contract and says it will be up & running in pilot counties of Napa, Sutter, Kern and Fresno by 1993. In the meantime, Los Angeles County gets a federal waiver to have its own separate computer system but with the stipulation that it must interface with SACSS. In 1991, Lockheed was also awarded the LA contract as well as other states with the same deadline but said the LA system would be operational by January 1993. **It became operational in January 1995.** The taxpayer cost for Los Angeles County system is estimated at \$40 million. Actual costs were \$58 million.

1994: SACSS should be used in pilot counties but still is not operational. Department of Social Services, Office of Child Support estimates the system will cost \$118 million.

1995: California must submit to the Federal Office of Child Support: 1. finalized county implementation plan; 2. finalized costs associated with changes; and 3. total estimated costs through project completion. If they do not submit the plan they will lose their federal funding. If they submit a plan and do not implement the plan by October 1, 1995, they will owe the federal government an estimated \$30 million in overpayment for services not rendered.

October 1, 1995: California misses the deadline but Congress gives states two more years to implement computer systems.

December 1, 1995: Sierra and Plumas Counties go on line with SACSS. Total combined caseload is 1700 cases. In addition, the oversight of the SACSS project was removed from DSS and given to the Health and Welfare Data Center (HWDC) because DSS had done such a poor job of oversight negotiating the contract with Lockheed Martin IMS.

January 1996: The *Sacramento Bee* reports that total projected costs of SACSS have risen 71% to \$262 million. Los Angeles County has spent \$58 million for their own county computer, ARS. Total tax dollars spent are \$320 million and the systems are only semi-operational in three of the 58 counties.

April 1996: Project implementation in the counties continue throughout the state but experience significant problems in Fresno County.

December 1996: HWDC amends the contract increasing the estimated costs of SACSS to \$299 million.

January 1997: HWDC hires Logicon, an independent verification vendor to evaluate SACSS. The Governor's budget increases the estimated project costs to \$313 million.

February 1997: The Logicon report that was released cites over 1,400 problems with the SACSS system. The system is now marginally operating in 14 counties. The project costs are now estimated at \$343 million for SACSS alone, this figure does not including the LA system ARS at an additional \$60 million. HWDC stops paying Lockheed for their work.

May 1997: ACES testified at the first Assembly Information Technology Committee hearing regarding the SACSS failures and to determine it's fate. ACES calls for the scrapping of SACSS and using a computer system from another state. In addition, Logicon reexamines SACSS and now finds only 900 problems. San Francisco and Ventura Counties pull out of the SACSS system. It is now in 11 counties.

June 1997: Lockheed Martin IMS purchases Logicon, Inc. Another Assembly Information Technology Committee hearing regarding the fate of SACSS. ACES testifies for a single statewide system.

September 1997: The Senate Budget Committee holds a hearing on SACSS to determine the reasons for the increased costs. The Budget Committee has been asked by HWDC for an additional \$78 million for SACSS implementation. The request is denied.

October 1, 1997: California misses the federal deadline for a single statewide computer system.

October 1997: The Assembly Information Technology Committee hold yet another hearing to determine the fate of the system. The matter is not yet resolved.

November 1997: At the Assembly Information Technology Committee hearing, HWDC announces that they ended their contract with Lockheed for the SACSS. CA intends to sue Lockheed Martin IMS for all of the \$47 million that they were paid as well as any penalty assessed CA for not having a computer in place. A child support computer advisory committee is formed made up of DAS, DSS, HWDC, advocates, the feds, and the CA legislature to provide advise on the next direction that CA will go in to develop a computer system for the state.

December 1997: Child support computer advisory committee held meeting but no advocates were invited. DAS advocated for multiple computer systems in violation of the federal law that calls for a single statewide system.

Child support computer advisory committee met to discuss the technical needs of the computer system.

January 1998: Child support computer advisory committee meeting with attendance by 16 counties, 2 people from DSS, several reps from the legislature, ACES, other advocates, and the feds.

Ohio - Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS):

The original contractor (ERC) that was hired to design, develop and implement the system promised that SETS would be fully operational statewide by 1990.

1990: Technicians from ERC could not get SETS to function at a demonstration of the system held during a 1990 Ohio Human Services Director's Fall Conference.

ERC was involved in a bid rigging scandal that caused the resignation of the Director of the Ohio Department of Human Services in 1990.

1991: The contract with ERC was canceled in early 1991 and the entire system was scrapped. ERC sued the state for canceling their contract. ODHS hired staff to design, develop and implement a new system instead of contracting with another private vendor. ODHS promised that the system would be on-line statewide, by Oct. 1, 1995.

1994: Smaller counties were supposed to begin phasing over to SETS in the fall of 1994, which did not happen.

1995: ODHS settled the case with ERC, out of court, for \$400,000.

October 1, 1995: Deadline comes and goes, SETS is still not operating anywhere in Ohio. Arnold Thompkins, Director of the Ohio Department of Human Services announces that SETS will be operating in 90% of Ohio's counties by October 1, 1996.

December 1995: Just a short two months later and ODHS once again changed the implementation date and promised that SETS will be on-line statewide in October 1997.

Late 1996: SETS is installed in Pickaway County but only 100 cases are put in the system.

1997: SETS is operating in Pickaway County with a total caseload of 2320; Hardin County with a total caseload of 1817 and Vinton County with a total caseload of 782.

May 1997: Officials from ODHS begin telling the media that SETS will be operational statewide by the October 1, 1997 deadline. But they fail to tell everyone the entire story. SETS will be in each county with only 25 cases online by October 1, 1997. This is less than 1% of the entire caseload of 951,000 in Ohio.

June 1997: ODHS Director, Arnold Thompkins tells ACES leaders in a meeting that SETS will not be fully operational statewide by the October 1, 1997 deadline. The plan is start converting 3 counties per month beginning January 1, 1998. This means that SETS will not be fully operational statewide until sometime in the year 2000 if the plan goes according to schedule.

August 1997: A *Columbus Dispatch* article reports that the Federal Office of Child Support will not accept the 25 cases per county as a statewide system. Ohio could be penalized \$127 million for not having a statewide system.

September 1997: ACES calls on the Governor's Office to begin putting people on overtime to ensure that SETS will be fully operational by the deadline. Officials from ODHS tell the Governor's Office that this is impossible because the system is incapable of handling all of the conversion at one time.

October 1, 1997: The second deadline and SETS is not fully operational across the state. Ohio could be penalized over \$836 million in TANF funds. Over \$90 million has already been spent on SETS.



Elisabeth Stock @ OVP
08/04/97 06:01:52 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Bruce's question on DNA information and child support

Bruce asked you to follow up on the last few sentences of an ACES letter to Secretary Shalala that states:

"We haven't heard from you on either of the two previous letters we have sent. One was about new performance standards for IV-D child support agencies and the other about using DNA information on file at the military to establish paternity for children when the alleged father is overseas or in a different state."

HHS says they had a conference call with the head of ACES and wrote a letter back. HHS had not heard of the idea of using DNA information to track military fathers before. They said this idea does not seem hot right now and had not done much research into it. OSCE does have a military liaison and that person was made aware of ACES proposal. HHS feels DoD would not be happy with the proposal.



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

Honorable Donna Shalala
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala,

I am writing to you about implementation of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Act, child support provisions. ACES members throughout the country have begun to meet with state legislators about putting in place a Central Payment Registry, New Hire Registry and Case Order Registry. We are being told about various models states are planning. Most are very troublesome because they are trying to keep local political entities happy and involved in the cash flow from the federal government for the child support enforcement program. Florida especially seems to be trying to do all it can to get a federal waiver that would allow it to contract with the Clerk of Court Association who would then contract with Barlett Bank to act as the central payment registry. Local clerks would continue to receive the same amount of federal funds they do now for acting as intake sites. This plan appears to violate fair bidding practices and would amount to paying the clerk of courts the same amount of money for one half the work, intake only, rather than intake and distribution of payments.

Other states are setting up elaborate systems which consist of one entity such as a bank, private vendor or state Treasurer's office to act as the central payment registry, another private vendor or State Department of Labor to act as the New Hire Registry and the IV-D agency or local IV-D agencies networked together to act as the Case Order Registry. One computer system and one government agency, or contractor can perform all of these functions less expensively and more efficiently. Every time they add another layer to the bureaucracy it means more time and less likelihood of a child support system which quickly and effectively collects and enforces support orders.

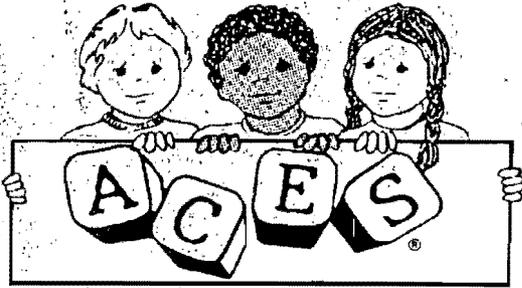
Additionally, the issue of orders from before 1994 being part of the "system" cause many problems for families and the government. Practicality requires a system which makes it easy for employers to know where to send new hires records and child support payments withheld from wages. The loophole in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Act which allows states to have separate systems for these cases need to be closed. ACES would appreciate you joining with us to support a technical amendment to close this loophole.

ACES would appreciate an answer to this letter. We haven't heard from you on either of the two previous letters we have sent. One was about new performance standards for IV-D child support agencies and the other about using DNA information on file at the military to establish paternity for children when the alleged father is overseas or in a different state.

Sincerely,


Geraldine Jensen
President

cc: Chief of Domestic Policy, Bruce Reed, Honorable Clay Shaw, Honorable John D. Rockefeller



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

October 22, 1997

Cynthia Rice
Domestic Policy Council
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rice:

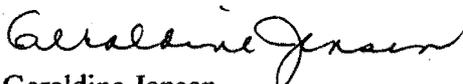
ACES, Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, would like to take this opportunity to let you know that we fully support the formation of the IRS Advisory Board. Because of the important role the IRS plays in child support enforcement through the IRS Offset and IRS Full Collection Services, any decisions made about the IRS will definitely impact child support

For this reason, ACES believes that the Advisory Board should include citizens who are parents owed support and would be happy to provide any type of assistance in making this happen.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you for justice for children owed support.

Sincerely,

ACES


Geraldine Jensen
President


| Child Support Enforcement - |
ACES

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