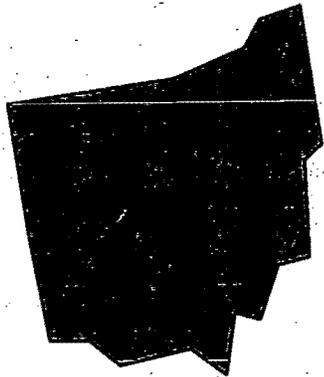


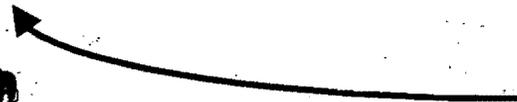
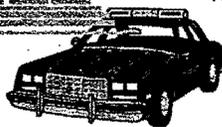
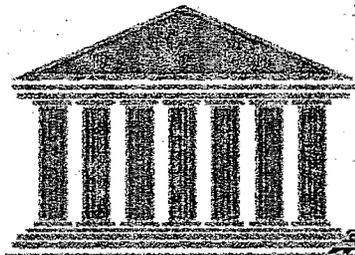
CSMAIT Case Referral & Investigation Process



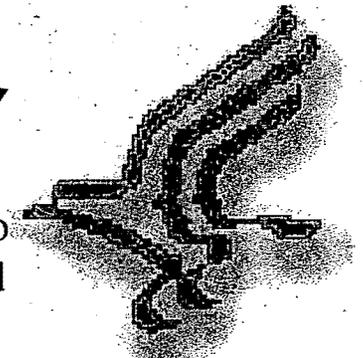
State refers cases that meet CSMAIT referral criteria to Screening Unit Office.



CSMAIT Screening Unit Office reviews case, uses government and commercial data sources to gather locate and asset information. Screening Unit Office forwards case file to OIG-OI



OIG-OI reviews screened information, assigns case to designated investigator and completes investigation. Forwards case to appropriate prosecutor.



CHILD SUPPORT MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE TEAM (CSMAIT)

CASE REFERRAL AND INVESTIGATION PROCESS

1. The State Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) will review its case load, selecting and forwarding cases that meet the CSMAIT Case Referral Criteria to the CSMAIT Screening Unit Office. Referred cases must be submitted using the official CSMAIT Center Referral Form. A copy of the Case Referral Criteria and the Referral Form are included as attachments to this document.
2. At the Screening Unit Office, CSMAIT program analysts will review the referred cases to ensure that they meet the Case Referral Criteria. The program analyst will return cases that do not meet CSMAIT criteria to the referring CSEA. The program analyst identifies the cases that do meet CSMAIT criteria for investigation.
3. The program analyst will utilize government and commercial data sources to locate the delinquent obligors and their assets. These data sources include, but are not limited to, the expanded Federal Parent Locator Service and the NCIC. The program analyst will track the progress of all cases utilizing the CSETS database.
4. When the program analyst has collected all available case data, and assembled that data in a case file, they will forward the CSMAIT Center Referral Form and locate and asset data to the Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations (OIG-OI).
5. OIG-OI will review each case file, and conduct any required additional investigation. When OIG-OI has determined that a case file is complete, and includes all required information, they will forward the case file to the appropriate entity (whether state or Federal) for prosecution.

CHILD SUPPORT MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE TEAM (CSMAIT)

CASE REFERRAL CRITERIA

1. The delinquent obligor must have refused to pay at least \$20,000 in total child support arrears.
2. The obligation must have been outstanding for at least one year.
3. The referring state Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) must have determined that the obligor has the ability to pay.
4. The referring CSEA must have used all other available civil resources to collect the arrears prior to referral.
5. Cases may be interstate or intrastate.
6. The minimum arrears figure may be waived in extenuating circumstances (i.e. the delinquent parent is a public official, repeat criminal child support offender, etc.).

All referrals will be screened by a CSMAIT program analyst prior to selection.

CSMAIT CENTER REFERRAL
Child Support Multi-Agency Investigative Team

State of _____

County of _____

IV-D Case Number _____

<u>For CSMAIT Center Use</u> Date Case Received Mon _____ Day _____ Yr _____

SECTION I - PAYER INFORMATION

Full Name of Payer Last _____ First _____ Middle _____		Social Security Number	Date of Birth Mon _____ Day _____ Yr _____
Last Known Address (Street Name and Number)		Place of Birth _____	
City	State		Zip Code
Was Address Verified? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If Yes, When?	Employer Name	
Home Phone	Employer Street Name and Number		
Has the Payer Remarried? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	City	State	
Alias	Business Phone	Zip Code	
Occupation _____	Driver's License Number _____		
Professional License _____	Automobile License Number _____		
State of Issue _____			
Does Subject Have any Current Warrants? If Yes, What Type(s) (bench warrant, criminal non-support, other felony) and Where Issued? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>			
Brief Physical Description (height, weight, tattoo, hair color)			

SECTION II - ORDER INFORMATION

Date Order Initiated _____		Court Where Order Initiated _____
Court Location _____		State that Issued the Order _____
Amount Ordered _____		Arrears from Date _____
Arrearage _____		Arrears to Date _____
Current Support Charges by Type (child support, alimony)		
List Arrearages by Type (child support, alimony etc., - owed to payee - owed to State)		
When Was the Last Payment?	What Other States Are Involved? Type of Involvement _____	
	Date	State/County Where Entered
		Dollar Amount
Initial Order	_____	_____
Modification	_____	_____
Other Subsequent Orders (URESА/UIFSA)		
Type _____	_____	_____
Type _____	_____	_____
Type _____	_____	_____

SECTION III - REFERRAL INFORMATION

State _____ County _____	Name of Referring Agency _____	Referral Date Mon _____ Day _____ Yr _____
State Contact Person _____	Direct Phone Number _____	FAX _____
Address of Referring Agency (Street Name and Number) _____		E-Mail Address _____
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Purpose of Referral (Check All that Apply):		
Locate <input type="checkbox"/>	Asset Identification <input type="checkbox"/>	Investigation <input type="checkbox"/>
		Criminal Prosecution <input type="checkbox"/>
		Arrest (only) <input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Specify _____	

SECTION IV - CUSTODIAL PARENT INFORMATION

Full Name of Custodial Parent Last First Middle		Social Security Number	Date of Birth Mon ____ Day ____ Yr ____
Street Name and Number			Place of Birth _____
City	State		Zip Code
Home Phone	Business Phone	Spouse Number	
Does Parent Have any Restraining /Protective Orders Against Payer? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		Is Custodial Parent Aware of this Referral? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
Has this Parent Signed a Non-Disclosure Form? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>			

SECTION V - CHILD INFORMATION

Name of Child Last First	Date of Birth Mon ____ Day ____ Yr ____	Place of Birth	State of Residency
Name of Child Last First	Date of Birth Mon ____ Day ____ Yr ____	Place of Birth	State of Residency
Name of Child Last First	Date of Birth Mon ____ Day ____ Yr ____	Place of Birth	State of Residency

SECTION VI - PROSECUTOR REVIEW

Has this case been reviewed by a prosecutor for possible criminal charges? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, by whom? (List prosecutor's or assistant's name and phone number)
If Yes, what was the outcome of the review? (criminal warrant, case did not meet an element of state law, etc.)	

For CSMAIT Center Use

SECTION VII - Case Assignment Information

State/County _____	Federal District
Investigating Agency	Agent Assigned
Date Agent Assigned Mon ____ Day ____ Yr ____	Agency Case Number
Date Sent to Agent Mon ____ Day ____ Yr ____	

SECTION VIII - OTHER ELEMENTS

List enforcement efforts to date showing which other remedies have been attempted

Indicators or history of willful non-payment (e.g., changes jobs when withholding starts, moves, verbal or written statements)

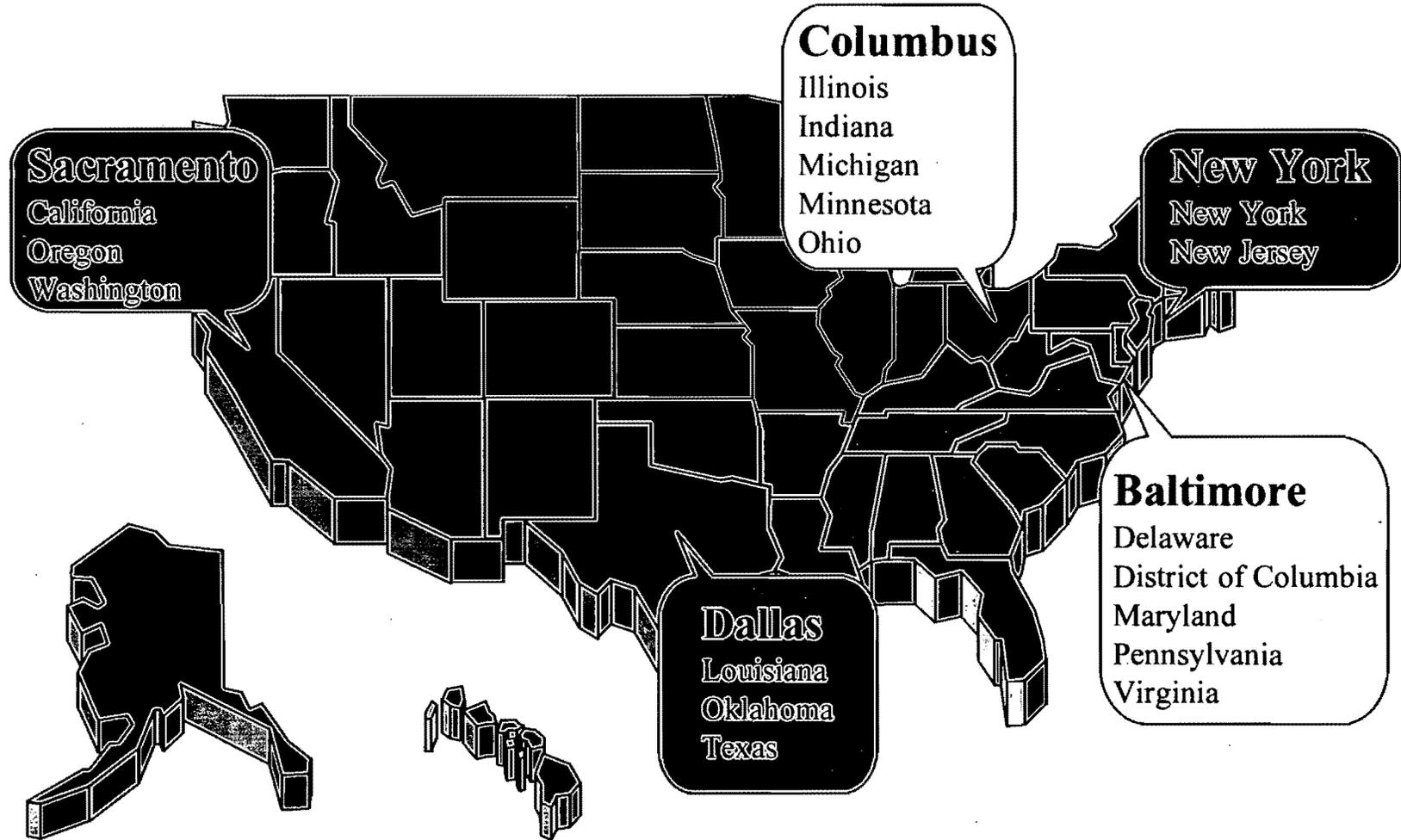
Indicators that the payer has the ability to make full or partial payment, (e.g., work history, education, skills, special training, life style)

Indicators that the payer knows this obligation exists (e.g., proof of service with copy of order, past payment history - explain type, contact with office)

List Any Special Circumstances (such as evidence of flight to avoid payment of obligation)

If Payer Remarried, Provide Names of New Spouse and any Children of this Union. Provide names/addresses of other close relatives of Payer in area. Provide Payer's Veteran Status.

Initial CSMAIT Screening Sites



THE CHILD SUPPORT MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE TEAM

The Child Support Multi-Agency Investigative Team (CSMAIT) will increase child support collections by identifying, analyzing, investigating, prosecuting, and evaluating the outcomes of the most flagrant, criminal non-support cases. The initiative's long-term goal is to create a nation-wide, comprehensive, and coordinated health and human services and criminal justice response to unresolved child support enforcement cases. CSMAIT is a collaborative task force encompassing the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), within the Administration for Children and Families, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations (OIG-OI), of the Department of Health and Human Services, criminal justice agencies, and State child support enforcement agencies.

Program Operations:

- CSMAIT will initially open 5 Screening Unit Offices in selected high-volume areas
- The Screening Units will receive case files, conduct case screenings, obtain all available data about the individual and their assets, and forward the case files to OIG-OI for investigation
- OIG-OI will forward the completed cases to the appropriate prosecutor for judicial action
- The Screening Units will use confidential government databases (including the Federal Parent Locator Service), and commercially available data sources to locate obligors and their assets
- All cases will be tracked in OIG-OI's Child Support Enforcement Tracking System
- CSMAIT Screening Units will be co-located with OCSE's Area Audit offices in the selected areas
- CSMAIT will conduct site surveys and make all necessary enhancements to ensure the security of the Screening Unit offices, and the privacy of the data

CSMAIT Marketing and Outreach:

- At the onset of the program, CSMAIT will meet with stakeholders to determine their needs and interests
- CSMAIT will design a Marketing and Outreach Plan to address the interests of program stakeholders, as well as the general public. This plan will communicate program plans and goals, and encourage buy-in from all parties
- CSMAIT will design and publish an Information Package about the program for distribution

CSMAIT Program Review:

- At the conclusion of the pilot period, CSMAIT will conduct a program review to assess successes and lessons learned, and make recommendations on the feasibility and approached to expanding operations to a nation-wide scale
- If the program review concludes that the program should be continued and expanded, CSMAIT will develop a formal roll-out strategy

Points of Contact:

If you would like to know more about CSMAIT, please contact either:

Chief Donald Deering (202) 401-1063
OCSE, Law Enforcement Liaison
e-mail: ddeering@acf.dhhs.gov

Inspector Matt Kochanski (202) 619-1485
OIG, Office of Investigations
e-mail: mkochans@os.dhhs.gov



Child Support Multi-Agency Investigative Team (CSMAIT)

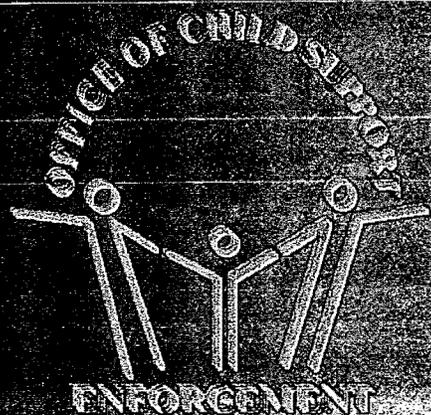


Chief Don Deering, OCSE
Inspector Matt Kochanski, OIG-OI

Commissioner Ross on Partnerships

“The controlling purpose of our partnerships should be to strengthen our working relationships so that we can maximize our effectiveness in serving America’s children and families.”

*Judge David Gray Ross,
Commissioner,
Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement*



Deputy IG Hartwig on Success

“OI brings valuable resources, knowledge, experience, and commitment to multi-level enforcement partnerships. ... Continuing collaboration with our task force partners will ensure success.”

*John E. Hartwig,
Deputy Inspector General,
Office of the Inspector General
Department of Health and Human Services*



What is CSMAIT?

Multi-Agency

- ◆ CSE & HHS
- ◆ Law Enforcement
- ◆ Prosecution
- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Parole & Probation
- ◆ Corrections



Task Force

What is CSMAIT?

Multi-Jurisdictional

- ◆ Local
- ◆ State
- ◆ Federal

Task Force

What Will It Do?

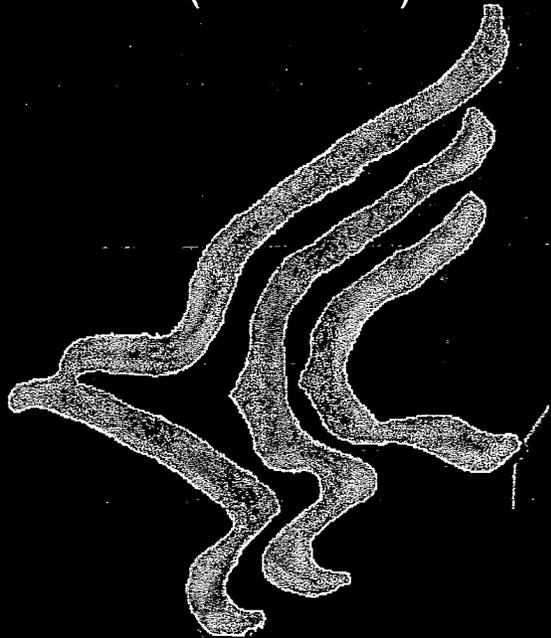
Mission

- ◆ Identify
- ◆ Analyze
- ◆ Investigate
- ◆ Prosecute
- ◆ Evaluate Outcomes
- ◆ Develop and Implement New Strategies

**High Profile
Criminal
Non-Support
Cases**

Sponsoring Agencies

- ◆ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
 - ◆ Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE)
 - ◆ Office of the Inspector General - Office of Investigations (OIG-OI)



Key Partners & Stakeholders

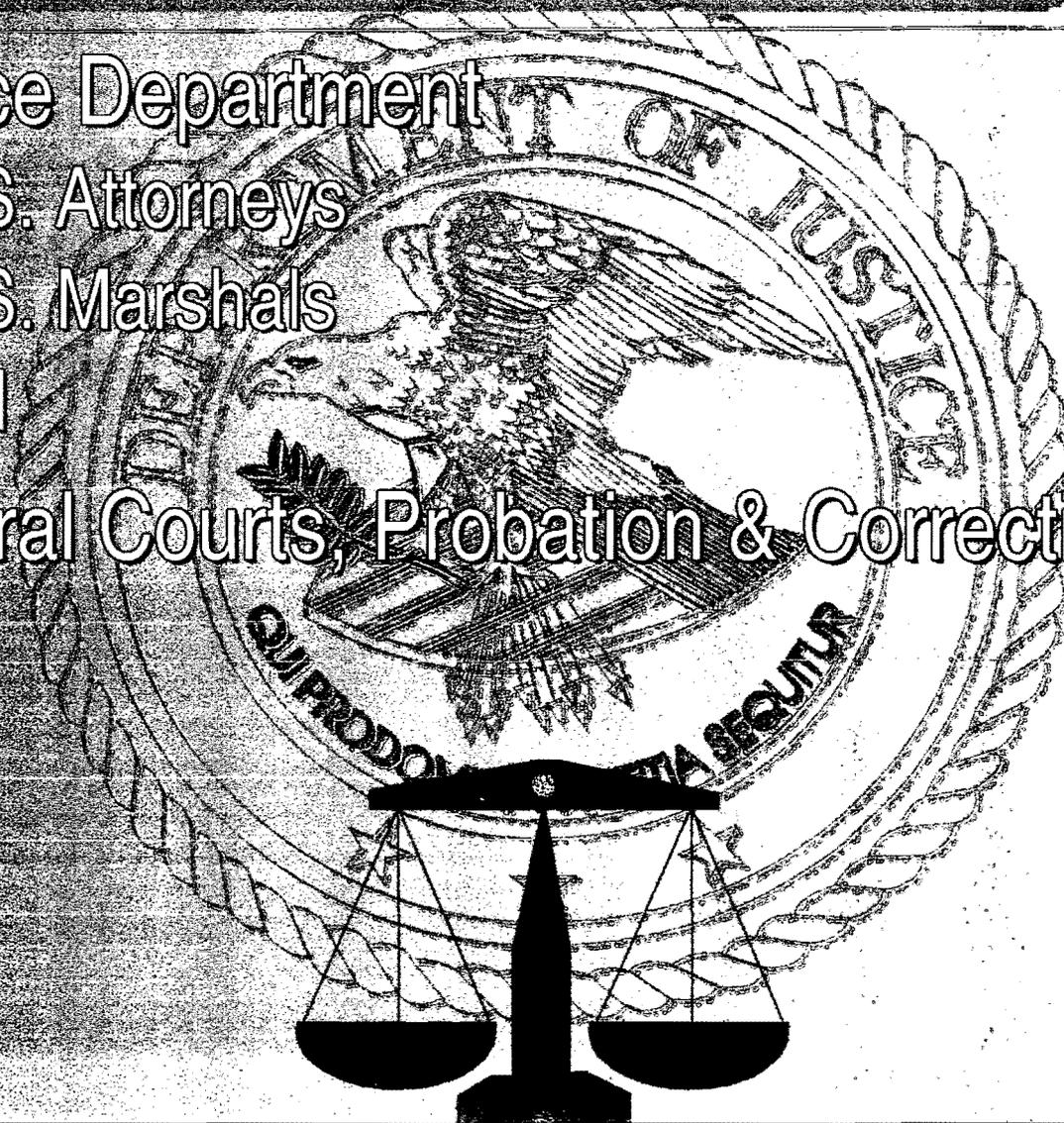
- ◆ Justice Department

 - ◆ U.S. Attorneys

 - ◆ U.S. Marshals

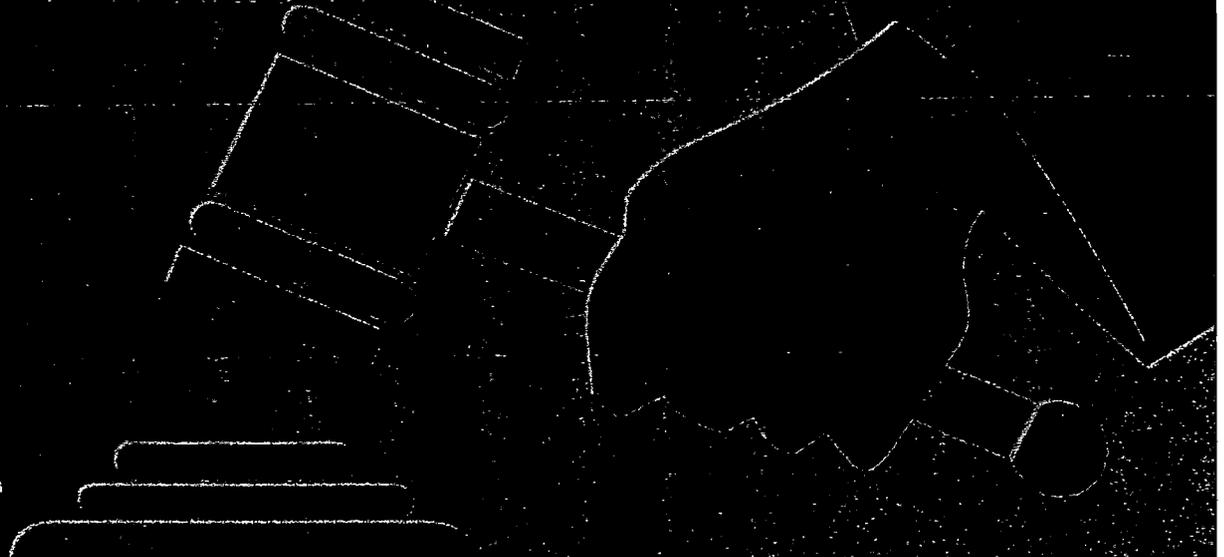
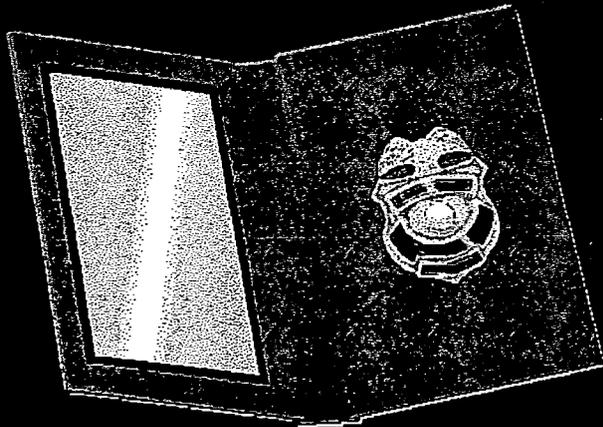
 - ◆ FBI

- ◆ Federal Courts, Probation & Corrections



Key Partners & Stakeholders

- ◆ Local & State CSE Agencies
- ◆ Local & State Law Enforcement
- ◆ Local & State Prosecutors & Friends of the Court
- ◆ State Courts, Parole & Probation
- ◆ Local & State Corrections



Operational & Functional Roles

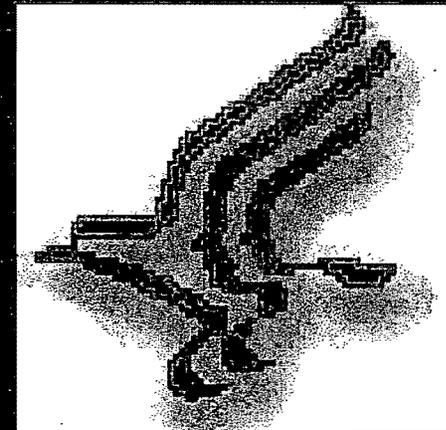
◆ OCSE

- ◆ Program Lead
- ◆ Program Development
- ◆ Expedited Locate Service (FPLS)



◆ OIG-OI

- ◆ Operations/Investigative Lead



Operational & Functional Roles

◆ Justice Department

- ❖ U.S. Attorneys - CSRA Prosecution
- ❖ U.S. Marshals Service - Fugitive Investigations, Prisoner Transport
- ❖ FBI - CSRA Investigations

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE



Operational & Functional Roles

- ◆ Federal Courts - Probation & Corrections
 - ❖ Judicial Perspective - Role Application
 - ❖ Docketing - Differentiated Case Management (DCM)
 - ❖ Colleague Awareness
 - ❖ Link to Enforcement - Case Reviews
 - ❖ Assignments - Facilitate Court Access



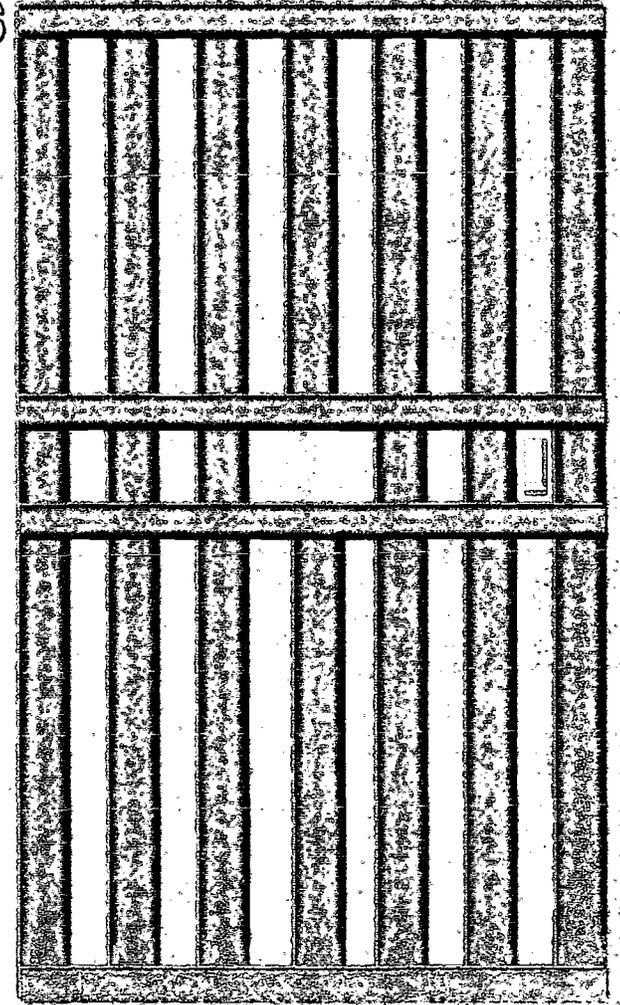
Operational & Functional Roles

- ◆ State & Local Law Enforcement
 - ❖ Investigations - State Criminal Cases
 - ❖ Initiate Asset Identification/Seizure & Forfeiture Proceedings
 - ❖ Service of Process, Writs & Warrants
- ◆ State & Local Prosecution
 - ❖ States Attorneys - Criminal Prosecution
 - ❖ Friends of the Court - Criminal Prosecution



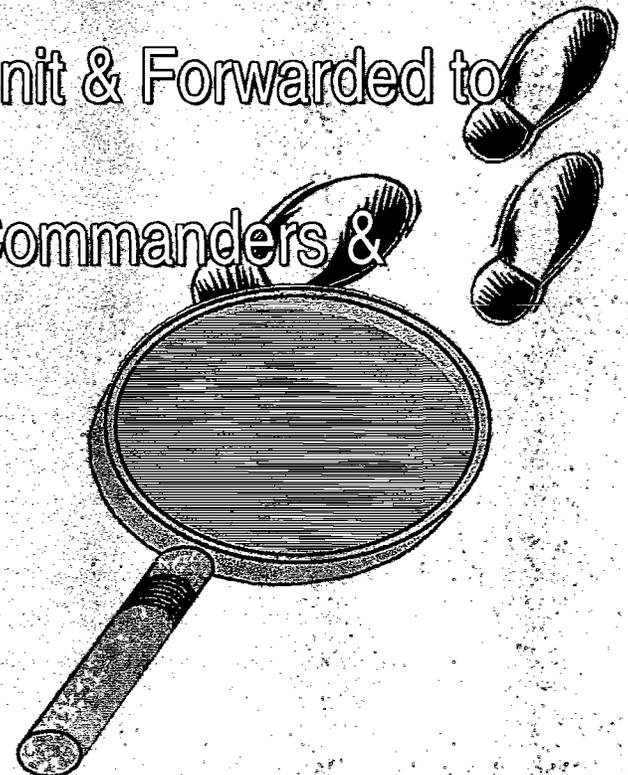
Operational & Functional Roles

- ◆ State & Local Courts Corrections and Probation
 - ❖ Judicial Perspective - Local Rules
 - ❖ Colleague Awareness
 - ❖ Assignments - Docketing
 - ❖ Enforcement Link
 - ❖ Institutional Impact



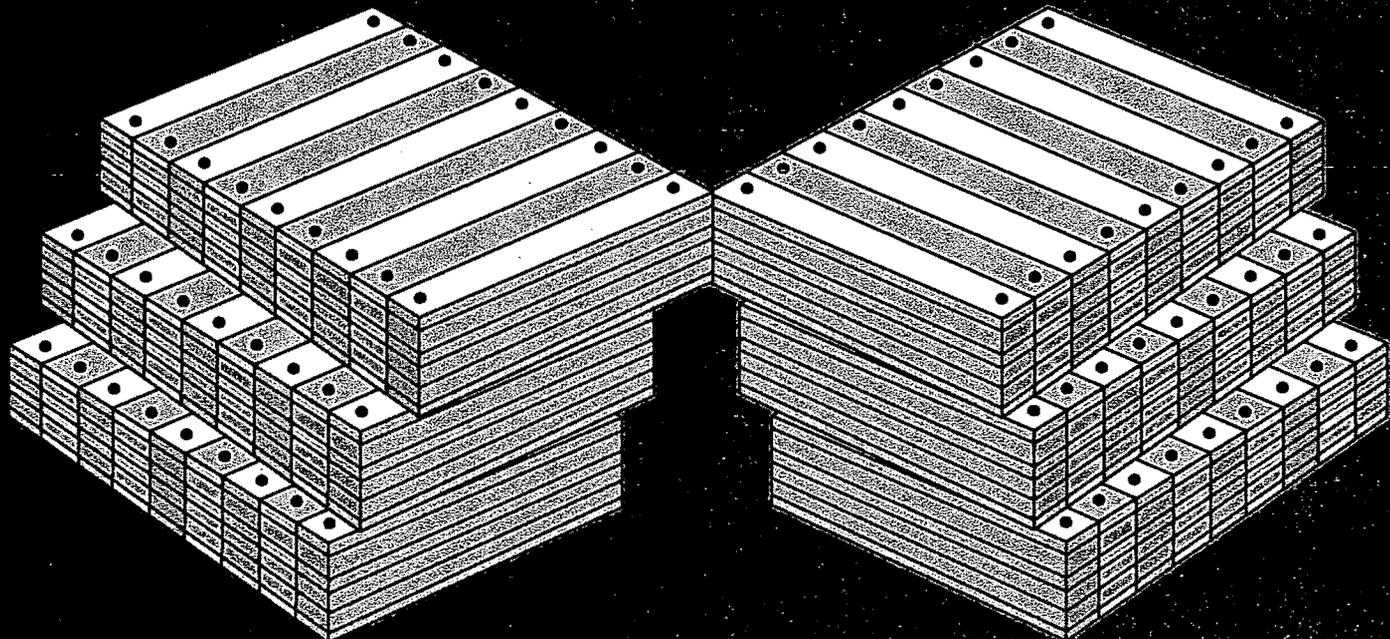
Investigative Teams

- ◆ Executive Committee will Establish Case Selection Criteria
- ◆ Case Selection & Referral
 - ❖ Provided by the States
 - ❖ Analyzed by Central Screening Unit & Forwarded to Investigative Teams
 - ❖ Managed & Supervised by Unit Commanders & Director of Operations



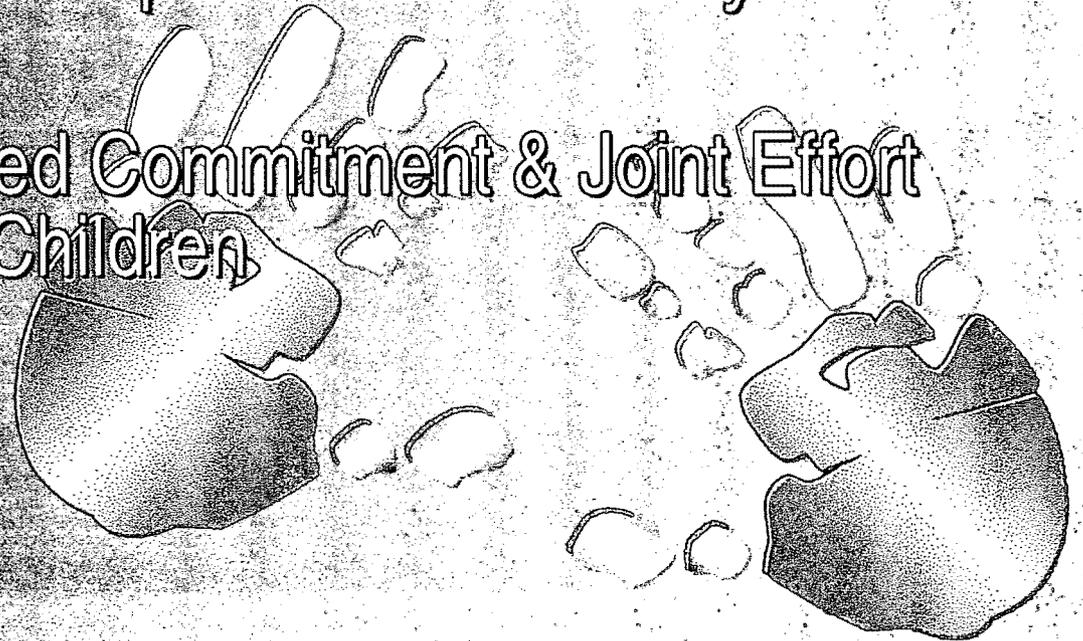
Investigative Teams

- ◆ Monthly Reports - To Executive Committee & Director of Operations
- ◆ Quarterly Reports - To Program Director & Director of Operations



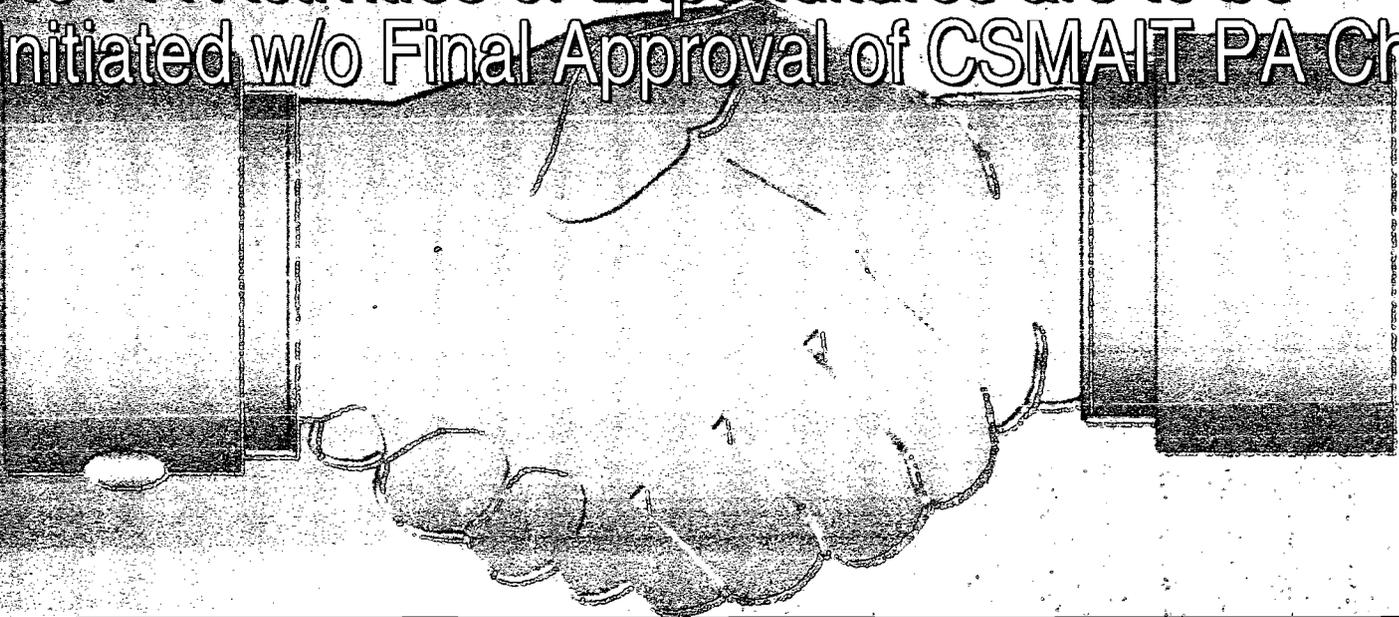
Public Affairs

- ◆ Necessary to Strengthen Public Understanding
- ◆ Will Enhance Public's General Knowledge of the State & Federal CSE Programs...
- ◆ ...Send a Message to Delinquent Non-custodial Parents of the Consequences of Non-Payment of Support
- ◆ Highlight Combined Commitment & Joint Effort on Behalf of Our Children



Public Affairs

- ◆ Requires Careful Coordination & Approval for PA Activities Including...
 - ◆ Media Relations,
 - ◆ Development & Release of News Releases & Other Communications Products
- ◆ No PA Activities or Expenditures are to be Initiated w/o Final Approval of CSMAIT PA Chief



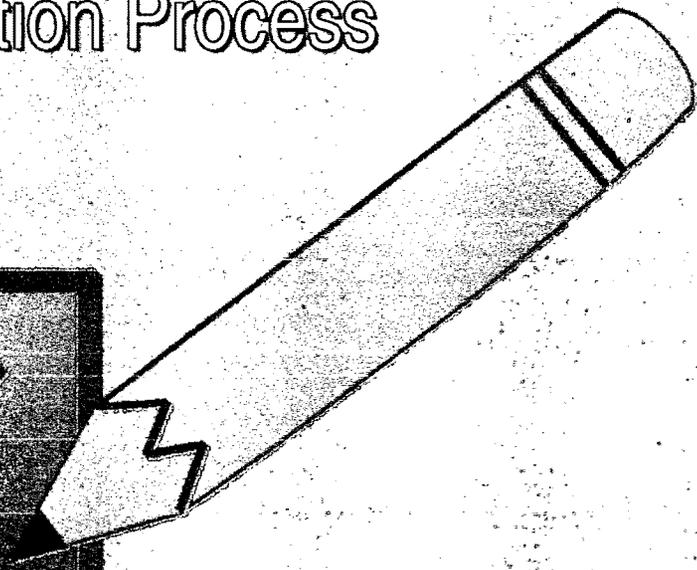
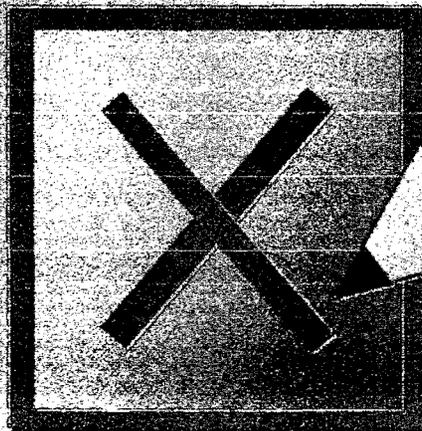
Property Ownership & Acquisition

- ◆ Supplemental Equipment & Furnishings May be Provided by Partners
- ◆ Contributed Items Shall Remain the Property of the Agency of Origin
- ◆ Records & an Annual Property Report Shall be Filed with the Executive Committee



Evaluation

- ◆ Investigative Outcomes of CMAIT will be Subject to Evaluation Procedures as Required by U.S. DHHS
- ◆ All Members Agree to Contribute Information and Participate in the Evaluation Process



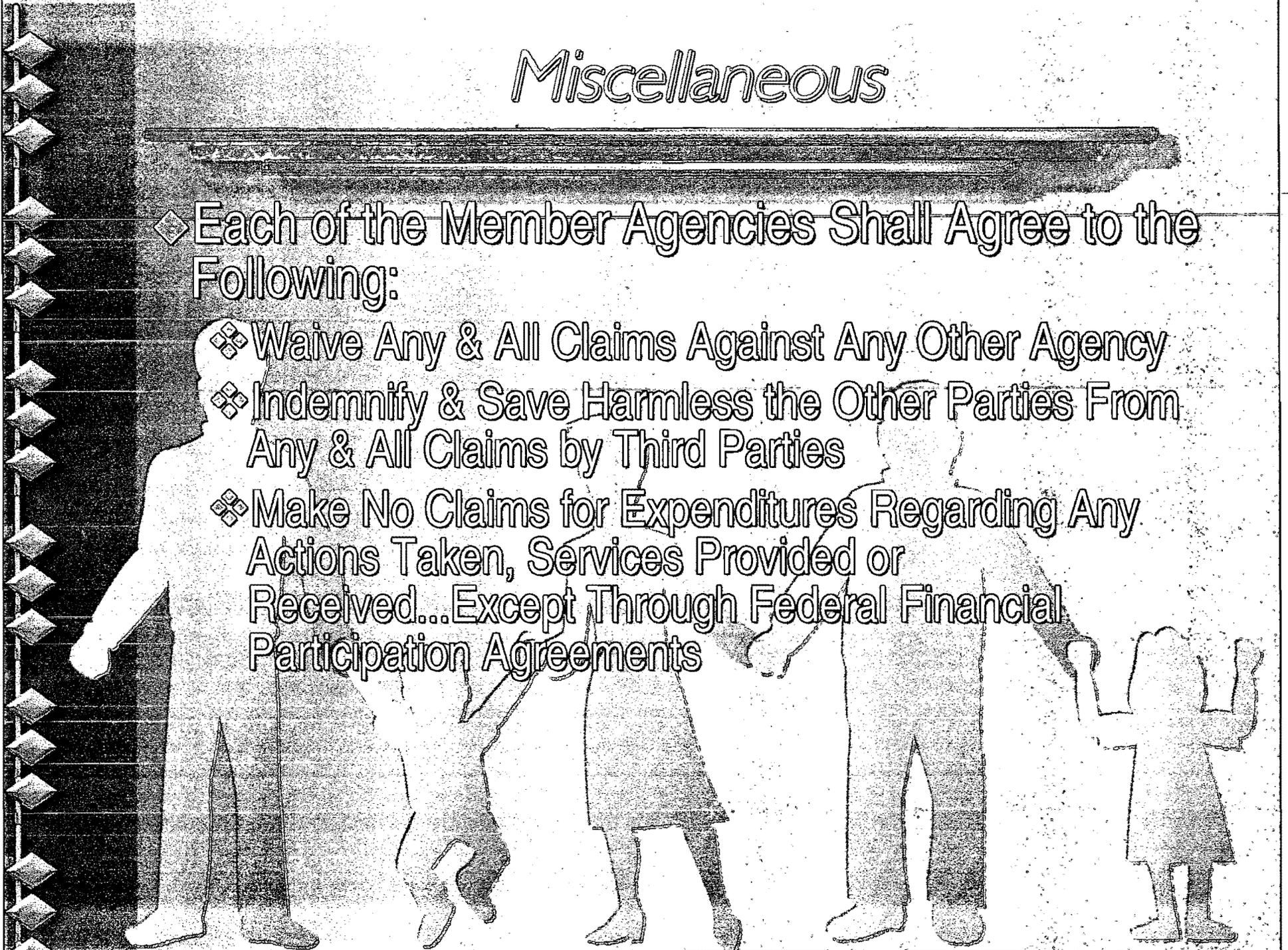
Miscellaneous

◆ Each of the Member Agencies Shall Agree to the Following:

❖ Waive Any & All Claims Against Any Other Agency

❖ Indemnify & Save Harmless the Other Parties From Any & All Claims by Third Parties

❖ Make No Claims for Expenditures Regarding Any Actions Taken, Services Provided or Received...Except Through Federal Financial Participation Agreements



CSMAIT

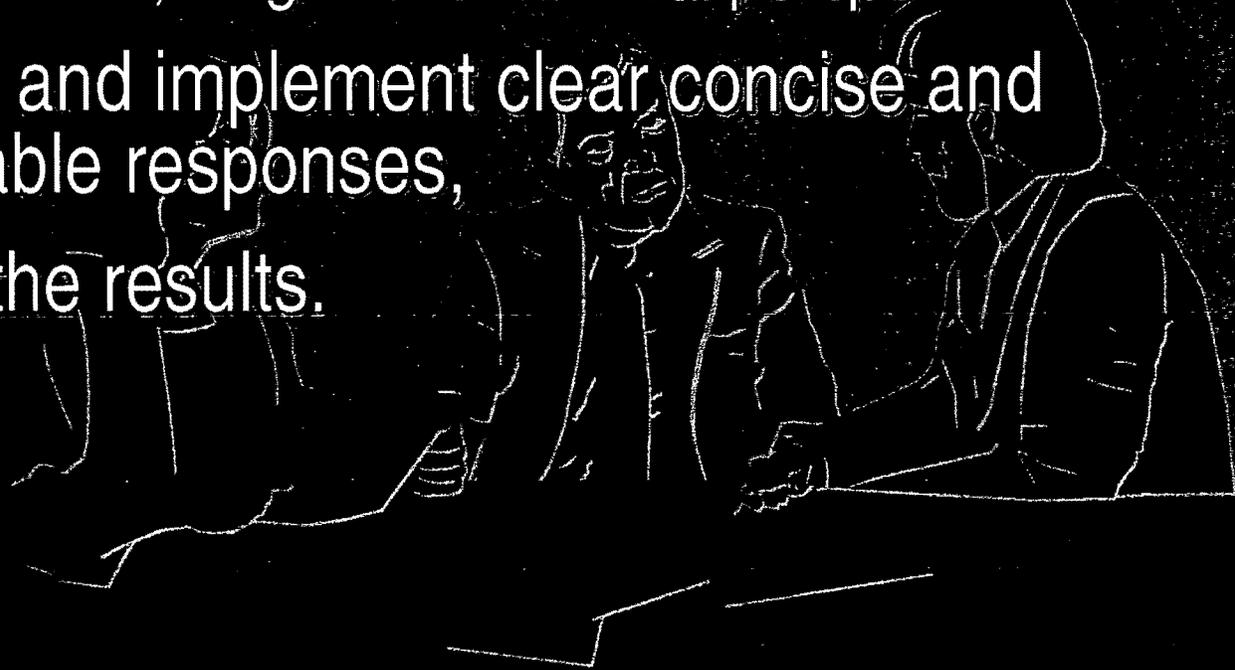
◆ Goal:

- ◆ Identify and implement strategies that will improve Criminal Non-Support Enforcement in the target areas



METHODOLOGY

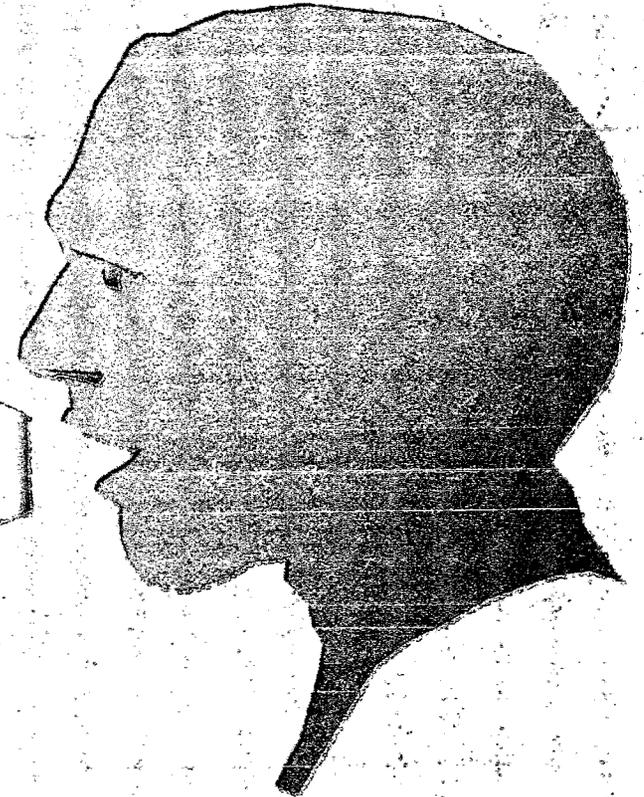
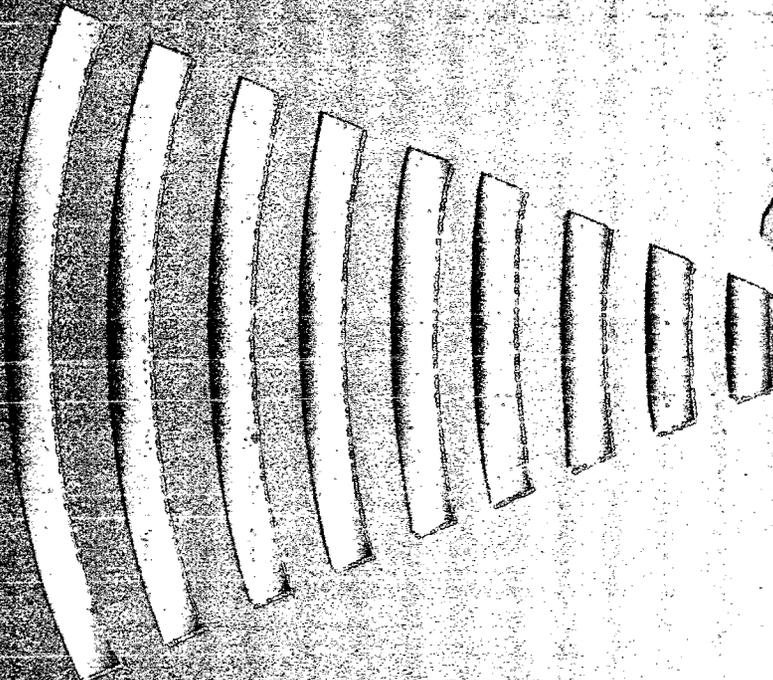
- ◆ Scan for and identify relevant issues and problems,
- ◆ Carefully analyze each finding,
 - ❖ Local, State, Regional & Federal perspectives
- ◆ Develop and implement clear concise and measurable responses,
- ◆ Assess the results.



ASSESS the RESULTS

◆ Further discussion

◆ Refer to handout



PROCESS

◆ Step 1

◆ Input: Critical to success is extensive input from all the stake holders,

- What are we doing now?
- What are we not doing?

PROCESS

◆ Step 2

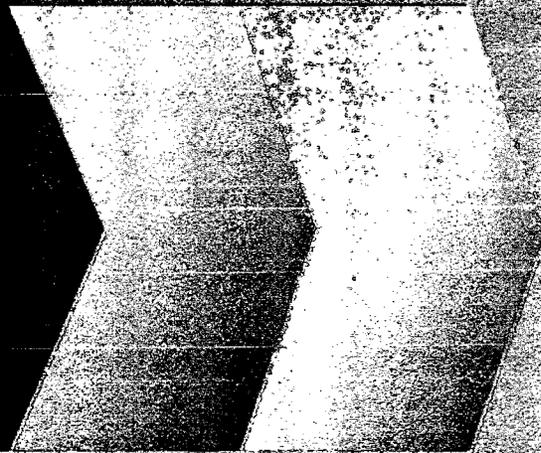
- ❖ Forecasting Results: Identify desired or expected outcomes based on issues, analysis and discussion (Committee & Sub-Committee)

PROCESS

◆ Step 3

◆ Activities and Strategies: Activities and strategies are developed to achieve the expected or desired results. Committee input is key because far reaching and comprehensive results will only evolve through cross disciplinary interaction

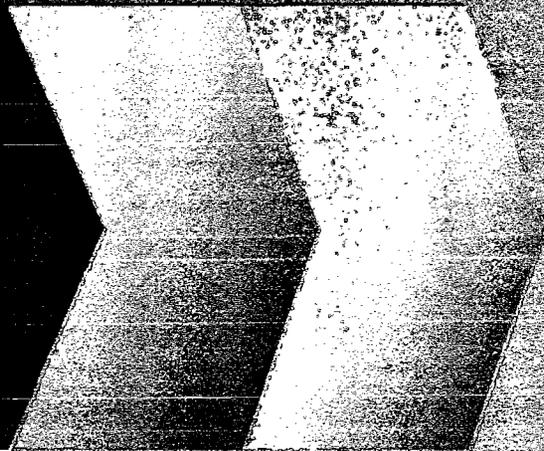
- Which strategies are most likely to move us rapidly toward our goal?



PROCESS

◆ Step 3, continued

- ◆ Which ones are most susceptible to failure?
- ◆ What can go wrong in pursuit of each of the new strategies?



PROCESS

◆ Step 4

◆ Resource and Methodology Evaluation: After determining the various activities and strategies, carefully evaluate if existing resources are being used in an effective and efficient manner.

- Do we need to deploy differently?
- Are we communicating across boundaries?

PROCESS

◆ Step 4, continued

◆ Is the the infrastructure adequate?

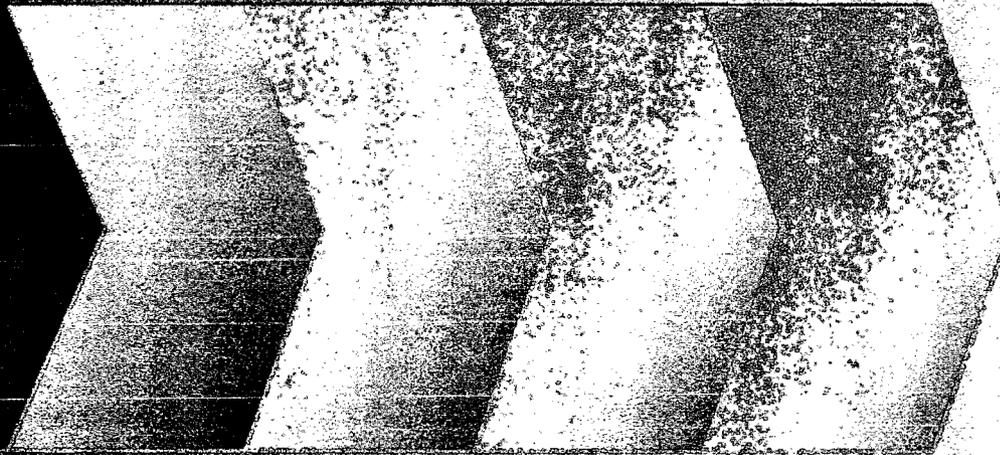
◆ Do rules, regulations or laws need to be changed or added?

PROCESS

◆ Step 5

◆ New Resources: If new or additional resources are required they must be clearly identified, justified and prioritized.

- Local, State & Federal.



PROCESS

◆ Step 6

- ◆ Implementation: Activities and strategies must be prioritized and implemented quickly so results can be seen by the clients, delinquent payers, general public and the various governments.

PROCESS

◆ Step 7

◆ Program Evaluation: Both the expected and actual outcomes are compared and evaluated. This step leads back to step one and the cycle continues.

- How do we know we have improved?
- What measuring device do we use?

**CHILD SUPPORT MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE
TEAM (CSMAIT) PROGRAM**

THE SECRETARY'S TASK FORCE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

October 23, 1998

**Office of Child Support Enforcement,
Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations
United States Department of Health and Human Services**

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 2.2.2 Work Breakdown Schedule 2-4

APPENDIX A: Work Breakdown Structure A-1

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This Project Management Plan (PMP) details the approach by the Child Support Multi-Agency Investigative Team (CSMAIT) to increase child support collections by identifying, analyzing, investigating, prosecuting, and evaluating outcomes of high-profile, criminal non-support cases. The PMP describes the work to be performed, the tasks and activities involved, and the project schedule.

This project is a joint effort between the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), within the Administration for Children and Families, and the Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations (OIG-OI), of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, and State child support enforcement agencies will support the effort.

1.2 Project Overview

The project's short-term goal is to identify, investigate, and prosecute the most flagrant, delinquent child support offenders, and collect all outstanding payments, in the geographic regions selected by the CSMAIT. The long-term objective is to create a nation-wide, comprehensive and coordinated health and human services and criminal justice response to unresolved interstate and intrastate child support enforcement cases.

The CSMAIT model utilizes an interdisciplinary task force approach, which will operate as a pilot project in selected areas containing high volume States. This approach will increase child support collections by combining and focusing child support enforcement and criminal justice resources on high profile, criminal non-support cases. The initiative's structured problem identification and resolution process will allow CSMAIT partners to better coordinate and focus the criminal non-support enforcement efforts.

The CSMAIT will open screening operations in, and be co-located with, five OCSE Area Audit offices. The CSMAIT will conduct a site survey for each office, and provide all technical installation and security enhancements required. The CSMAIT will also provide technical, security, and programmatic training to the operations office staff.

Each CSMAIT office will consist of criminal justice and child support practitioners, who will identify problems peculiar to the locality, carefully analyze them, and provide comprehensive and workable solutions. Each CSMAIT office will also deploy teams of local, State, and Federal investigators. The OIG-OI will provide the lead for each investigative team.

The CSMAIT will install a central case-screening unit in each selected location. These units will receive, analyze, distribute, and track cases assigned to the CSMAIT office.

States included in the selected OCSE Audit Division regions will submit cases to the screening unit for analysis and investigation. Using both commercial (public) and government (confidential) data bases, such as the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS), the screening units will determine a target obligor's location and ability to pay, as well as critical asset, business, and residential information. Once these preliminary investigations have been concluded, the information will be forwarded to the appropriate OIG-OI Investigative Unit for investigation by the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Investigative Units will complete the investigation and forward the cases for prosecution, in a format suitable for judicial action.

The success of this initiative is dependent on an effective communications strategy. At the onset of the program, the CSMAIT will evaluate program stakeholder needs and interests, and design an Information and Outreach Plan to effectively communicate program goals, needs, and outcomes to those stakeholders. The communications strategy will encourage buy-in and cooperation from State, local, and Federal agencies, as well as from the private sector.

1.3 Scope

Each CSMAIT screening unit will be staffed by at least one program analyst, who will utilize the FPLS, commercially available data sources, and other information to locate criminally delinquent child support obligors and their assets. Each program analyst will receive hard copy case files, conduct a preliminary case screening, obtain all available information about the case and the parties involved, and available assets. Following this preliminary screening, the case will be forwarded to the appropriate OIG-OI investigator. Each case, including milestone events and screening and investigative results, will be tracked through resolution using the Child Support Enforcement Tracking System (CSETS), developed and maintained by the OIG-OI. To support these operations, the CSMAIT will develop and execute a marketing and public information campaign.

1.4 Assumptions

Project Administration and Funding

The CSMAIT Program will be co-managed and funded by OCSE and the OIG.

OCSE will provide program direction, training, and oversight to the program analysts, ensure that the required information resources are present, and that security measures are in place and followed. The OCSE Audit Area Supervisors will provide day-to-day supervision of the program analysts and ensure that required security measures and procedures are followed.

1.5 Constraints

The CSMAIT Program operations centers in Columbus, Ohio and Baltimore, Maryland will be staffed and functioning no later than January 1, 1999. Three additional offices in Dallas, Texas, New York, New York, and Sacramento, California will be opened on or before November 1, 1999.

SECTION 2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

2.1 Organizational Roles and Responsibilities

The OCSE and the OIG-OI will be responsible for the overall management, development, and coordination of the CSMAIT. OCSE will ensure that regular communications and information are provided to Area Audit staff and OIG-OI investigators regarding program and policy issues.

OCSE's Area Audit offices will provide office space for the screening unit activities within their existing facilities. The Area Audit office supervisors will provide day-to-day supervision and guidance to program analyst activities.

The OIG-OI will serve as the operations and investigative lead for this program. The OIG-OI will provide initial training of program analysts in operational procedures and information requirements, operations and maintenance of the CSETS; be responsible for liaison activities among the investigative units and law enforcement agencies; provide necessary follow-up and closure actions on cases; and gather and provide case and statistical data to be used for marketing and outreach products.

OCSE will evaluate and set up screening unit sites and lead development of informational materials and marketing/outreach programs.

Operations staff (program analysts) will be provided through a Memorandum of Understanding between OCSE and OIG-OI.

2.2 Detailed Project Plan

2.2.1 Task Descriptions

The following tasks will be performed in support of the CSMAIT Program.

Task 1 Program Planning Phase

The CSMAIT will produce a detailed project management plan, including a work breakdown structure, and project budget prior to program inception. The Team will also develop a communications and responsibility protocol both within the team and with outside law enforcement organizations, and a process flow diagram for cases.

In determining the project budget, the OCSE and OIG teams will determine which commercially available data bases and other data sources will be used to compliment the FPLS data bases.

Task 2 Program Implementation

Task 2.1 Marketing/Public Information

OCSE and OIG-OI will develop an effective marketing and public information campaign for the CSMAIT. As a first step, OCSE will work with other CSMAIT team members to identify key stakeholders and their interests, and how those interests impact program goals. The Team must consider both stakeholders that support the program, and those that oppose it, in developing a suitable strategy.

OCSE will develop a Marketing and Public Information Plan. This plan will be reviewed and approved by OIG-OI prior to implementation. As a part of this task, OCSE will also develop an Information Package for stakeholders and advocacy organizations. This package will provide information about program goals and plans, and encourage cooperation and participation. The Plan may also include other marketing/public information strategies, such as offering presentations at child support, law enforcement, and criminal justice conferences, and CSMAIT information on the OCSE web site.

Task 2.2 Determine Case Selection Process

OCSE and OIG-OI will determine the criteria to be used for selecting cases for the CSMAIT. These criteria must be clearly defined for distribution to the selected Area Audit Office and to the State child support enforcement agencies in those regions.

Task 2.3 Screening Unit Office Set-Up and Operations

OCSE will visit each selected Area Audit Office to conduct a site survey. As a part of each site survey, OCSE will evaluate available space, equipment, and access to telecommunications lines. OCSE will also evaluate the security of each Area Audit Office facility. Finally, OCSE will evaluate staffing needs. It is estimated that each site survey can be completed in two business days.

After completing each site visit, OCSE will develop a Site Implementation Plan for operations. The Implementation Plan will include a listing of requirements for hardware and software purchase and installation, any required telecommunications network connections, and necessary security modifications.

The OCSE team will execute the implementation plan for each selected office. OCSE will install all hardware and software, and ensure that it is operational. At the present time, it is anticipated that each operations workstation will be loaded with Windows NT and SimPC. OCSE will ensure that all necessary

telecommunication connections are functioning. OCSE will also implement any security enhancements. OCSE will provide training to the program analyst and any appropriate Area Audit staff in operating the system, maintaining data security, and understanding program objectives and procedures.

As part of an overall security plan, each person who will have access to any confidential information will be subject to a background investigation and will be required to sign a non-disclosure oath.

Task 3 Program Marketing and Outreach

The Marketing and Outreach Team will collect and analyze data and feedback during the program. These efforts will be designed to stay current on the progress of the program, its successes (both measurable and observable), the impacts of the program on the child support enforcement community, and changes in the political climate and attitudes pertaining to the effort. The Marketing and Outreach Team will be prepared to generate both regular and periodic reports as well as on-demand reports to meet special needs or requirements.

Task 4 Program Review

After approximately 12 months, OCSE and OIG-OI will conduct a program review to assess successes, lessons learned, and make recommendations on the feasibility and approaches to expanding the Program to a nation-wide scale. This review will also include recommendations for levels of continued funding, ongoing or improved levels of support, and adequacy of hardware, software, and information resources.

2.2.2 Work Breakdown Schedule

A current copy of the work breakdown structure (WBS) for the project is included in Appendix A.

Appendix A: WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE

Child Support Enforcement and Law Enforcement: Better Service to Families through Cooperative Agreements

by David Gray Ross

THE GOAL OF THE NATION'S CHILD SUPPORT Enforcement (CSE) Program is to ensure that millions of children are supported financially and emotionally by their separated, divorced or never married parents. The CSE Program is a joint partnership of federal, state and local plans, each with its own laws and procedures.

Section 454 (7) of the Social Security Act permits each child support state plan to provide for cooperative agreements with courts and law enforcement officials. The purpose of cooperative agreements is to ensure optimum program performance. Cooperative agreements are contracts between state or local child support enforcement agencies and courts or law enforcement officials. "Law enforcement officials" means district attorneys, attorneys general, local sheriff/police departments and similar public officials and their staffs.

Much has been written lately about the use of attachments, liens, license revocation and offsets. These enforcement tools, with others, have had a substantial impact. Nationwide, child support collections have increased during the last four years from 7.9 billion to 12 billion dollars. The Child Support Recovery Act, a recent federal law that allows federal prosecutors to take action against parents who willfully avoid supporting their children who live in another state, is another strong means of enforcement. It is fully operational and enjoys the strong support of Attorney General Reno and the entire Justice Department. The President has directed the attorney general to recommend legislation to Congress to make violation of this law a felony.

Across the country, we are seeing child support officials and members of the law enforcement community working together for the benefit of America's children. In early March, the U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) announced the appointment of Donald Deering, a former local police chief, as the Chief Law Enforcement Liaison Officer to be a resource for local offices in strengthening OCSE's ties with the criminal justice system. As I have repeatedly said in speeches across the nation, the failure to pay child support is a crime and must be treated as such.

With that in mind, this article is written to help individuals understand cooperative agreements. These agreements are developed in such a way that each party to the



David Gray Ross is deputy director of the U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement.

For many years he was a judge of the Circuit Court of Prince George's County, Maryland, where he directed the Family Law Division.

contract benefits from the involvement, and the overall operation of the child support enforcement program is enhanced to a degree that would not be possible without the agreements. Through Federal Financial Participation (FFP), cooperative agreements provide the involved courts, administrative forums and law enforcement agencies with reimbursement of 66 percent of their reasonable and necessary administrative expenses, as well as additional revenue, depending on the state's financial structure and/or other performance incentives built into the contract. The state child support enforcement agency has discretion with respect to the method of calculating eligible expenditures by courts, administrative forums and law enforcement officials under cooperative agreements.

Cooperative agreements must be written so that responsibility and expected performance is clear to all involved. While there is no

such thing as a "model" cooperative agreement, an agreement generally thought to be effective will contain:

- (a) Clear organizational relationships;
- (b) Specific, clearly defined standards of performance that are acceptable to each of the parties;
- (c) A statement that the parties will comply with Title IV-D (child support enforcement) of the Social Security Act, implementing regulations and other applicable federal regulations and requirements;
- (d) A statement of specific financial arrangements including budget estimates, allowable costs, methods of determining costs, incentive structure (if appropriate), procedures for billing the state or local CSE agency and any relevant reimbursement policies;
- (e) A description of the kind of records that must be maintained and the appropriate federal, state and local reporting and confidentiality requirements;
- (f) Clear, specific provisions for performance monitoring, including, at a minimum, an on-site review by the state or local CSE agency;
- (g) Provisions for a corrective action period to be used at the discretion of the CSE agency when monitoring and review indicate a performance deficiency;

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CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

(continued from page 17)

- (h) A provision stating the circumstances under which the agreement may be terminated; and
- (i) A statement regarding the dates on which the agreement begins and ends and any conditions for renewal and/or amendments.

Under a written cooperative agreement between a child support enforcement agency and a court, administrative forum or law enforcement agency, expenses associated with the following activities are reimbursable:

- (a) Establishing paternity, including evidence developed through genetic and polygraph tests; court actions; interstate case referrals and acceptances; and voluntary acknowledgment;
- (b) Establishing and enforcing support obligations including the development of evidence; court actions; financial assessments; interstate referrals and acceptances; fraud investigations; warrants; contempt citations; and wage attachment and processing;
- (c) Collecting and distributing support payments including identifying and collecting from delinquent cases; and interstate referrals and acceptances;
- (d) Establishing and operating the state parent locator service including use of the Federal Parent Locator Service; and interstate referrals and acceptances;
- (e) Establishing and maintaining case records;
- (f) Responding to requests for certification of collection of support delinquencies by the Secretary of the Treasury; and
- (g) Applying to use the United States district courts.

Also subject to reimbursement under a cooperative agreement: short term training of court and law enforcement staff assigned on a full or part-time basis to support enforcement functions. FFP is not available for the salaries, travel, training or office costs of judges or their administrative and support staff, nor for service of process and court filing fees, unless the court or law enforcement agency would normally be required to pay the cost of such fees.

If you would like more information about cooperative agreements between courts, administrative forums and law enforcement agencies, contact Chief Donald Deering at (202) 401-1063 or Captain Terry Justin, Law Enforcement Technical Assistance Officer at (202) 401-5522.

PHILIP A. ROLLINS IN PROFILE

(continued from page 16)

and, on the day after the election, was on the golf course, as he had predicted.

After taking the oath for the seventh time, he said, "One thing has not changed and that is that I still enjoy this job. I work with some of the finest people you'll ever find in this profession and I'm still as eager to come to work today as I was in the earlier years."

Expanding on this theme recently, he said, "I've been trained as a lawyer and I've always been interested in public service. The most important function of government is keeping your community safe. I've had the opportunity to help the public in this regard. This is a political job, but it's non-partisan and I like that aspect. Providing service to the public and keeping the people safe and taking off the streets those people who should be off the streets—what more satisfying job could there be?"

Along with golf ("My arthritis hasn't caught up with my golf-playing yet"), Rollins spends most of his off hours with his family.

"I have six granddaughters," he reports, "and they take up quite a bit of my time, but it's beautiful time."

PRESIDENT PHIL ROLLINS?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THAT IS.

Mix the laws of possibility with a little imagination and, well, you never know how things might have turned out.

Rollins and Michael Dukakis were classmates at Brookline High, located in a Boston suburb. Later, when they were in public service and politics, Rollins, a Republican, ran for state representative. His Democratic opponent was Dukakis, who won. Rollins says, "That was my fault, but that's another story."

Rollins went into the DA's office and Dukakis went up the political ladder to governor, becoming the Democratic presidential nominee in 1988 and running against then Vice President George Bush. As history has recorded, Dukakis lost.

Now, suppose Phil Rollins had defeated Dukakis for state representative in that election?



Child Support Report

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Vol. XIX, No. 9, September 1997

Community Oriented Law Enforcement

*An Interview with Arturo Venegas, Jr.,
Chief of the Sacramento, California,
Police Department*



Arturo Venegas, Jr.

Chief of Police in Sacramento since January, 1993, Chief Venegas oversees a budget of \$76 million and 1,073 employees. His leadership has been marked by a radical redeployment of resources to emphasize neighborhood and business corridor revitalization. He has been the recipient of numerous community leadership and service awards.

CSR: *Chief Venegas, let's start with your view of child support enforcement. What's your interest in it?*

CAV: I'm interested in child support enforcement from the standpoint of holding people accountable for

Special Law Enforcement Issue

Natural allies in the effort to make sure that children receive the child support they are owed and deserve, child support enforcement and law enforcement agencies haven't always taken advantage of each other's strengths. That's starting to change, as this special law enforcement issue of CSR makes clear.

their behavior. If someone has a court order to pay child support and fails to do so, that person has broken the law—a law which, as law enforcement officers, we are sworn to uphold. So we have that role to play in child support enforcement.

But I prefer to think in terms of a larger issue here: the issue of providing economic support to children—how a lack of support can damage their futures and how it can affect the quality of life in their communities. It also means economic hardship, a daily struggle to survive for single parent families—the single parent usually being mom.

I think it's fair to say that research is starting to show us that kids who grow up in single parent homes with little or no support from the noncustodial parent, are going to have more problems than other kids. And these problems may retard, or even prevent, their growing up into healthy, active, stable, contributing adults—something that, as a society, we simply can't afford to have happen.

So, as a law enforcement person who thinks of the job in terms of community needs and responsibilities, I would say that our role with child support ought to be to create an environment in our communities where adults honor their commitments and responsibilities to their children so that these children have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Continued on page 7



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Child Support Enforcement

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PURPOSE

The CHILD SUPPORT MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE TEAM (CSMAIT) project is a multi-disciplinary work group, whose mission is to increase child support collections by identifying, analyzing, investigating, and prosecuting delinquent high-profile child support cases. CSMAIT is a prototype for resolving difficult criminal non-support cases. focused on detailed and highly technical financial and locate investigations.

The threshold for inclusion in the project is high: CSMAIT is a two-track (State & Federal) investigative effort and obtaining timely and accurate location, financial, and other relevant automated systems information is critical. The Federal OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT (OCSE) provides, installs, and secures the primary CSMAIT information platform, the FEDERAL PARENT LOCATOR SERVICE (FPLS). OCSE provides the systems hardware and software, as well as the technical and personnel resources to ensure ongoing operation, audit and oversight of the project. Locate information obtained through the FPLS is secondarily verified, when appropriate, by authorized OCSE or State child support enforcement officials and shared with appropriate investigative personnel. Designated Federal agents may be appointed special agents of the FPLS.

AUTHORITY:

Section 452 (0) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) authorizes the SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) to receive and use an amount equal to 2 percent of the total paid to the Federal Government pursuant to section 457 (a) of the Act for the immediately preceding fiscal year for the purpose of operating the FPLS. THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE FPLS BY OCSE IS MANDATED BY SECTIONS (a) (9) AND 453 OF THE ACT. UNDER SECTION 453 (f) OF THE ACT, OCSE IS REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO ARRANGEMENTS WITH STATE AGENCIES TO COOPERATE IN CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 453 WITH RESPECT TO THE OPERATION OF THE FPLS. [Other agencies need to insert here their statutory authority for their participation and their contributions to the CSMAIT project, such as funds and staffing].

ARTICLE 1: NAME OF TASK FORCE

1.1 The Task Force is named the Child Support Multi-Agency Investigative Team (CSMAIT).

ARTICLE 2: SPONSOR AGENCIES

2.1 The Task Force is jointly co-sponsored by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and the Office of Investigations in the Office of the Inspector General (OIG/IO) in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

ARTICLE 3: OTHER PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

3.1 Justice Department

a. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

DRAFT

- b. Federal Court Administrators.
- c. Federal Parole and Probation Officers.

3.2 State and Local Governments

- a. IV-D Directors (and other child support professionals).
- b. Police and Sheriff Departments.
- c. Prosecutors.
- d. Corrections Officials.
- e. State Court Administrators.
- f. Parole and Probation Officers.
- g. Community Organizations.

ARTICLE 4: REGION OF ENFORCEMENT

4.1 CSMAIT shall operate in Federal Health and Human Services Region V, in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Special attention will be directed to the States of Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

ARTICLE 5: MISSION STATEMENT

5.1 The mission of CSMAIT is to focus the combined and coordinated efforts of a variety of agencies on selected child support enforcement cases. CSMAIT seeks to identify and investigate Federal and State criminal non-support cases where the court ordered provider has evaded payments for at least one year; or owes in excess of \$20,000 in overdue child support; or where the needs of the child or the circumstances of the case suggest criminal justice intervention.

ARTICLE 6: CSMAIT DIRECTORS

6.1 The activities of CSMAIT are jointly supervised by OCSE and OIG in DHHS: OCSE shall designate and provide a Program Director and OIG/IO shall designate and provide a Director of Operations.

6.2 The Program Director is responsible for the overall development of the CSMAIT project. The Program Director provides for the general administration of CSMAIT, to include planning, oversight, and evaluation.

6.3 The Director of Operations oversees the investigative process. The Director of Operations ensures the investigative team(s) meet CSMAIT objectives, utilizing evaluation techniques that measure outcomes.

6.4 The Program Director and the Director of Operations equally share responsibility for meeting the goals and objectives of the CSMAIT project.

ARTICLE 7: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 The policy, procedures, and business affairs of CSMAIT will be governed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be chaired by the CSMAIT Program Director. The Chair shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee except in the case of a tie.

7.2 The Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Executive Committee, from among the State and Local Child Support Enforcement Agency members on the Executive Committee. The election shall take place at the first regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting and upon vacancy. The Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

7.3 The Executive Committee membership shall consist of the original agency representatives set-forth as the Attesting Signatures at the conclusion of this Memorandum of Understanding.

7.4 Additional persons wishing to become members of the Executive Committee may submit a letter requesting admission to the Executive Committee. A request for membership should explain how the applicant's membership on the Executive Committee will enhance the operations of CSMAIT. A request for admission must also contain an affirmation of the mission statement of CSMAIT and an agreement to the terms and conditions of the CSMAIT Memorandum of Understanding.

7.5 Any request for admission received five days in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee will be considered and will be approved based upon a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Executive Committee meeting.

7.6 Any changes in the membership of the Executive Committee, must have the approval of two-thirds of all members of the Executive Committee, except any signatory may resign by providing thirty days notice to the Executive Committee.

7.7 Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote. Each member may select one designee or representative to vote in their absence. Prior to any meeting of the Executive Committee, the selection of the designee or representative shall be forwarded to the committee in writing. The use of proxy votes is not permitted.

7.8 A simple majority of the voting members shall be required to establish a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

7.9 Unless otherwise specified, actions of the Executive Committee shall require a simple majority vote of the members present at a meeting.

7.10 Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least quarterly at places and times determined by the Chair in consultation with the membership of the Executive Committee.

7.11 Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be convened by the Chair when the need arises, but shall not be convened with less than three days oral or written notice to all Executive Committee members.

ARTICLE 8: DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS

8.1 The Directors of CSMAIT are responsible for ensuring that the policies of the Executive Committee are properly carried out by the committee, staff, and participants.

8.2 Duties and responsibilities of the Program Director and the Director of Investigations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Ensuring compliance with Federal law and regulations with respect to the operations of the FPLS as set forth in section 453 of the Act and 45 CFR Part 303.
- b. Ensuring staffing needs for the administration of CSMAIT; developing and implementing personnel policies as necessary.
- c. Establishing and maintaining a CSMAIT accounting system to ensure compliance with all DHHS audit and policy requirements.
- d. Establishing a centralized Case Screening Unit.
Establishing and maintaining a case/project tracking system.
- e. Identifying collateral benefits to law enforcement and the overall IV-D program, which evolve from CSMAIT operations.

- f. Establishing and maintaining work site(s) for investigative teams at locations to be determined, including the acquisition of equipment, obtaining support staff, and securing appropriate technical assistance.
- g. Establishing a plan of action for the investigative units with discernible goals and objectives.
- h. Encouraging the participation of community organizations.
- i. Other duties as directed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 9: ESTABLISHMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS

9.1 Initially teams will be located in the states of Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio, at locations to be determined by the Executive Committee. Each investigative team shall be supervised by a Unit Commander, who shall be appointed by the Director of Operations. The Unit Commanders shall report to the CSMAIT Director of Operations.

9.2 Investigative teams shall be comprised of law enforcement investigators from participating Federal, State, and local agencies. Participating agencies will be responsible for all pay, benefits, travel expenses and per diem and overtime for their investigators.

ARTICLE 10: CASE ASSIGNMENTS

10.1 The Executive Committee shall meet and establish criteria for the selection of criminal child support cases to be investigated. Unit Commanders shall assign cases for investigation following this criteria. Monthly reports will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review and evaluation of the performance of the unit and the mission of CSMAIT. The Executive Committee shall prepare a quarterly report for the Program Director (CSMAIT Chairperson), summarizing the outcome of investigations, providing a general review of the performance of CSMAIT, and identifying issues needing resolution.

ARTICLE 11: CHAIN OF COMMAND

11.1 The Unit Commander shall be directly responsible to the Director of Operations. Every member of the unit shall be subject to the orders, commands and direction of the Unit Commander. In order to permit continuity of supervision, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Unit who shall be Second-in-Command.

ARTICLE 12: PUBLIC AFFAIRS

12.1 Public affairs activities for the project are necessary to strengthen public understanding of the Child Support Enforcement Program and the services available to them. The CSMAIT project will further enhance the public's knowledge and inform the delinquent non-custodial parents of the consequences of non-payment of child support.

12.2 CSMAIT will cooperate with the media to assist them in obtaining information on matters of public interest. However, approvals must be obtained for public affairs activities such as media relations, development and release of news releases, and the development and release of communications products.

12.3 Departments and agencies involved are responsible for obtaining and coordinating necessary public affairs clearances based upon their agencies requirements.

12.4 No public affairs activities or expenditures are to be initiated without the final approval of the CSMAIT public affairs chief.

ARTICLE 13: PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND ACQUISITION

13.1 Supplemental equipment, property, supplies, and furnishings may be provided by the respective agencies in order to initiate business and help CSMAIT to continue functioning in the proper manner. Every item of property or furnishings contributed by any member agency shall be, and remain, the property of the agency of origin.

13.2 Unit Commanders shall keep a record and file an annual report with the Executive Committee concerning the description, location, and ownership of such property. This record will be maintained by the Unit Commander in the Unit's main office at all times.

ARTICLE 14: EVALUATION

14.1 The investigative units of CSMAIT will be subject to evaluation procedures as required by DHHS. All member agencies agree to contribute information to, and participate in, the evaluation process.

ARTICLE 15: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

15.1 Each of the member agencies to this Memorandum of Understanding agree as follows:

- a. Waive any and all claims against any other member agency which may arise out of their activities under this agreement; and,
- b. Indemnify and save harmless the other parties to this agreement from any and all claims by third parties for property damage or personal injury or death, which may arise out of activities of the parties to this agreement; and
- c. Shall make no claims for expenditures regarding any actions taken or services provided and/or received pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding against any other signatory agency except as to Federal Financial Participation claims.

ATTESTING SIGNATURES and DATES

Child Support

Law Enforcement

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SECTION: NEWS Pg. A-29

LENGTH: 1546 words

HEADLINE: The feds are helping track down worst of deadbeat parents

SOURCE: KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

BYLINE: Aaron Epstein

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- It took eight years of tedious detective work, frustrated by bureaucratic run-arounds, but Linda Cogle is finally able to say, "There's going to be some justice."

Cogle's husband of 24 years vanished abruptly in late 1990 after emptying the family bank accounts and cashing in the insurance policies. Devastated and impoverished, she and her two teen-age daughters were left to fend for themselves.

"The girls and I had eggs and toast for our first Thanksgiving," she recalled from her home in Richmond, Va. "While everyone else was going to dances and parties and the movies and the mall, they had to go to work."

Arizona officials finally tracked down Charlie Cogle -- living next to a golf course in Fountain Hills, near Phoenix. This month, he pleaded guilty to a federal charge of deliberately failing to support his wife and children. He could end up in jail.

The federal government wants to help parents like Linda Cogle and their abandoned children by hunting down some of the nation's worst runaway parents and their concealed assets with a program called Project Save Our Children.

Armed with an array of computerized data and toughened laws that can put deadbeats in prison, U.S. officials are setting up federal-state task forces to chase parents who can afford to support their children but who run away from their legal responsibilities to do so.

Such parents -- predominantly fathers, occasionally mothers -- quit their jobs, hide their assets, put their personal property in someone else's name, use phony Social Security numbers and skip from state to state.

"These are individuals for whom there can be no sympathy," said John Monahan, who supervises the U.S. Office of Children Support Enforcement.

The results of Project Save Our Children so far have been limited but heartening.

The task forces have investigated more than 300 cases, made 200 arrests, won 170 convictions and obtained court orders for \$3.6 million in overdue payments, administration officials said.

Matthew Kochanski, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services special agent who supervises Project Save Our Children, said the task forces want "the most egregious, prosecutable cases."

CC: CR
Enc
Gene

from: Andrea

FID

in case you
didn't already
see this.

Often that means interstate cases in which parents thumb their noses at the law, leaving their families in financial trouble, their children in need of medical treatment and local officials in need of help.

The new federal effort began last year in Columbus, Ohio, where the first task force was set up to investigate flagrant interstate child-support cases referred by state and local authorities in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

Several months ago, a second task force, operating out of Baltimore, began seeking referrals from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia. New task forces are planned for New York City, Dallas and Sacramento. Eventually, the project will cover 17 states.

Three U.S. laws enacted in the 1990s are essential to the effort:

** The Child Support Recovery Act of 1992, which made it a federal offense to willfully avoid paying court-ordered support for a child living in another state.

** The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (welfare reform), which authorized immense collections of data to help track down deadbeat parents. For example, the National Directory of New Hires found 1.2 million delinquent parents in interstate cases last year.

** The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998, which exposed interstate violators to up to two years in prison for deliberately failing to pay thousands of dollars owed to their children.

Number of databases

The task forces have been able to find deadbeat parents and their assets by using a welter of computerized information from Social Security, income tax, criminal, employment, bankruptcy, real estate, credit, prison, parole, probation, welfare, court, unemployment and other records.

And the databases available to the task forces are expanding, a prospect that troubles civil libertarians. They worry about government intrusions into individual privacy, observing that innocent people have been erroneously identified as deadbeats, and that damaging information could leak from confidential government computer systems.

Nevertheless, interstate banks, brokerage houses and credit unions are beginning to match government lists of millions of known child-support delinquents with their checking, savings, IRA, money-market, mutual funds and mortgage data.

Sometimes, though, the first clue to runaway parents' whereabouts comes from the fugitives themselves.

A Delaware deadbeat, for example, sent two \$50 money orders as Christmas presents to the children he had neglected. The task force found copies of the money orders in the state file, noted they were purchased from Winn Dixie store No. 2299, traced the store to Melbourne, Fla., checked state tax forms and followed the trail to his public school employer and then to his home address.

Sometimes deadbeat parents learn the feds are after them and pay up, such as the man who sent a postcard to his abandoned family from Germany, boasting of his great life there.

"We found out that he was working there for an American company," Kochanski recalled. "We subpoenaed the company for his wage records. He finds out we're investigating, and he calls the wife and then sends her a check for \$70,000. He was afraid we were going to get to him. That's the deterrent effect at work."

Just a fraction

At best, though, Project Save Our Children can affect only a small fraction of the nation's immense -- and growing -- child-support problem.

There were 20 million court-ordered child-support cases in 1997, an increase of 1,000 percent since 1976. Only a third of them are interstate cases subject to federal authority.

Nationally, collections of delinquent child support are rising dramatically -- from \$8 billion in 1992 to \$14.4 billion in 1998. But they are outpaced by the increases in the amount owed. The court-ordered debt rose above \$43 billion in 1997, the last year for which numbers are available.

"The majority of nonpaying child-support cases do not involve active evaders and hidden assets," Vicki Turetsky recently told a House Commerce subcommittee.

"They involve men and women scraping by, reluctant to pay when it is easy to avoid getting caught and only tenuously attached to their children

"Some have excuses for not paying. Some have genuine hardships. Some are unemployed The truth is that the program has a long way to go in every state before it makes a difference in most children's lives," said Turetsky, senior staff attorney for the Center for Law and Social Policy, a nonprofit group that focuses on issues affecting low-income families.

Most state child-support programs are understaffed and underfunded. Many are insufficiently automated. The average child-support worker has more than 1,000 cases and often doesn't have time to answer calls from parents, Turetsky said.

John E. Hartwig, the deputy inspector general for investigations at HHS, said coordinating state, county and federal efforts is essential.

"This is about getting money for kids. And to do that, you have to have effective child support enforcement, effective establishment of paternity, effective administration and an effective penalty for not paying," said Hartwig.

\$8 billion in California

In California, reputed to have one of the most disjointed collection programs in the nation, delinquent parents owe \$8 billion in unpaid support to 3 million children. Democratic leaders in the state Legislature are considering whether to take collection responsibilities away from 58 district attorneys and vest them in a new state agency.

Linda Cogle learned about the bureaucratic problems firsthand during her long, lonely search for her missing ex-husband. Her big break came when an Internal Revenue Service agent, probably inadvertently, told her Charlie Cogle was in Arizona. She called her county agency for help.

"They'd said they'd get back to me, blah, blah, blah, or the computer was down, or they didn't know anything, or they'd call me if anything happened. Two years later I found out they had no record of me, which explained why I wasn't getting any answers," she recalled.

She wrote to the Attorney General's Office and got results. She said an assistant attorney general named Steve Silver called "and said he thrived on cases that were outlandish, like mine. He became my guardian angel. He made me feel like I was the only case he had.

"He told me where Charlie was, where he was working, that he'd bought a house on a golf course. He said my case was unbelievable and required action on a federal level."

And that's what happened.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Richmond stepped in and accused Charles Richard Cogle, 53, a former Virginia insurance executive, of criminally failing to pay an estimated \$177,000 to support his wife and children -- even though he had sufficient income.

When he is sentenced Oct. 25, Cogle could be jailed for up to six months, fined \$5,000 and forced to make payments on his debt to his family.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 1999



U.S. DHHS

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Public Information and Inquiries

To: C. Rice *fax 456-7431*
White House

From: D. Siegel *HHS/OCSE*
401-9373

Date:

Pages (including cover) 2

Fax 202 205 5927

Message:

2/25/99 Washington Times article as requested

91

Drive helps nab 200 deadbeat parents

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

2/25/99

A new federal-state program to crack down on the biggest "deadbeat" parents is showing success, law enforcement officials told a House hearing yesterday.

Project Save Our Children is a demonstration program aimed at a "small but reprehensible group of parents, who over long times willfully fail to take responsibility for their children," said John Monahan, a top official with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

To date, 311 child-support debtors have been referred to investigative units associated with federal agencies, including the FBI and U.S. Marshals Service, and state law enforcement officials.

Nearly 200 arrests have been made and "more than \$3.6 million in overdue support has been ordered," Mr. Monahan told the House Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations.

HHS has plans to expand the program to 14 more states, including Virginia and Maryland, and to the District.

Renata Krzykowski of Warren, Mich., is one of the first custodial parents helped by the program, which is being tried in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois.

Mrs. Krzykowski said her ex-husband, Philip Romita, 41, was supposed to pay \$30 a week for the care of their daughter, who is disabled, after their divorce in the mid-1980s.

Mr. Romita is a construction worker, but over the years, he told court officials that he couldn't work because of a heart problem, she said.

Mr. Romita's debt grew to at least \$11,000, but he eluded authorities — he would carry \$500 to \$1,000 and use that as bond money to free himself if he was arrested, said Wayne County, Mich., Sheriff's Deputy Donald Skidmore, who is assigned to Project Save Our Children.

When Mr. Romita was arrested in November, he thought he could post bond again, said Deputy Skidmore. When he was told he faced several years in prison, "his knees crumbled," the deputy said.

The arrest was performed in front of television cameras and re-

porters.

One of the best tools allowed by Project Save Our Children is access to a fugitive parent's credit history, added Deputy Skidmore.

Mr. Romita had said he was unemployed, but his credit report provided "a wealth of information" on his finances, the deputy said. This included an annual income of \$35,000 from a self-employed cleaning services business, ownership of a home and two vehicles in his name, according to an Associated Press story.

Other child-support officials told the House panel that getting access to credit histories would be very helpful, but it is rarely allowed for privacy reasons.

"Can't we overcome some of these privacy rights," asked Rep. Ed Bryant, Tennessee Republican.

"America faces a serious child-support enforcement problem," said Rep. Fred Upton, Michigan Republican and subcommittee chairman. In 1997, nearly \$60 billion was owed by noncustodial parents, "but only 25 percent of this total was actually collected," he said.

PAGE AB

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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From: Melissa Benton

Date: February 24, 1999

Remarks: FYI, attached is the final HHS (ACF and IG) child support enforcement testimony that was delivered to the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Commerce today.

To: Cynthia Rice
Andrea Kane
Michele Ahern
Gaylee Morgan

cc:



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447**

STATEMENT BY

JOHN MONAHAN

**PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FEBRUARY 24, 1999

Testimony of
John Monahan
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families

Greetings and Introduction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify today on the progress the Nation's child support enforcement program is making to help children across America.

As the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families, I supervise the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement and have worked closely with Commissioner David Ross and his team to develop ways to ensure that parents who owe child support honor their obligations to their children.

President Clinton has made child support enforcement a top priority, and it is paying off. We recently set new performance records for the program. In 1998, we collected an estimated \$14.4 billion, an increase of over 80 percent since fiscal year 1992 when only \$8 billion was collected. Included in the amount is a record \$1.1 billion in delinquent child support collected from Federal income tax refunds for tax year 1997. This was a 70 percent increase since 1992, and collections

were made on behalf of nearly 1.3 million families. In 1997 we also established 1.3 million paternities, an increase of more than 100 percent since 1992 when 516,949 were established.

The President signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in August 1996. Better known as welfare reform, the law provides critical new tools to improve our Nation's child support program - central registries of child support orders, a national directory of new hires, streamlined paternity establishment procedures, uniform interstate child support laws, license revocation, and passport denial. Whether through use of greater automation, simpler interstate procedures or tougher new penalties, we are working with our state and local partners to make sure that no parents can ignore their financial obligation toward their children, especially when they have the resources to meet their child support obligations. An example of the success we are already seeing from the 1996 welfare law is the National Directory of New Hires, which last year located 1.2 million delinquent parents in interstate cases.

Child support is an essential part of welfare reform because it sends a message of responsibility to both parents and is a vital part of moving families toward work and self-sufficiency. It helps to ensure that single parent families and their children don't need to rely on welfare in the first place and for those who leave welfare, it can help to ensure that they don't fall back on the welfare rolls once they have left. Child support enforcement affects far more people than just those on welfare. Children in working poor and middle class families depend upon child support for greater financial security as well.

We are proud of this Administration's record on child support enforcement, but, as the President has said on numerous occasions, we need to do more.

The Child Support Enforcement Program

Before turning to our new initiative relating to criminal law enforcement, I would like to give you a brief overview of how the Nation's child support enforcement program operates. The program was established in 1975 under title IV-D of the Social Security Act as a joint Federal/State partnership. As a Federal/State partnership, it functions in all States and territories, generally through social services departments, but also through the offices of State Attorneys General or Departments of Revenues. Most States work with prosecuting attorneys and other law enforcement agencies and officials of family or domestic relations courts to carry out the program at the local level.

The child support program locates non-custodial parents, establishes paternity, establishes and enforces support orders, and collects child support payments from those who are legally obligated to pay. While programs vary from state to state, services are available to all parents who need them. States are largely responsible for operating the program, but there tends to be greater Federal involvement in the interstate caseload, which makes up nearly a third of all cases. The Federal Government shares in the cost of funding the CSE program by contributing to states' administrative costs and providing incentive payments to them. Since 1975 the program has been continually strengthened through Federal and State statutory and executive actions.

Chronic Nonpayers and the Deadbeat Parents Act

We know that many non-custodial parents take seriously their moral responsibilities to pay child support regularly and on time. These parents recognize the importance of the financial and emotional support their children need and voluntarily meet these responsibilities. We also know there are many low-income non-custodial parents who want to do the right thing and support their children, but who do not earn enough to meet their child support responsibilities. The President's Welfare-to-Work reauthorization proposal will help such fathers increase their employment so they can better support their children. And for the majority of non-custodial parents who do not voluntarily meet their responsibilities, routine enforcement tools like wage withholding or license revocation will be sufficient to induce them to pay their financial obligation.

However, for a small minority of cases, even tougher enforcement penalties must be imposed. These are the most flagrant cases, where people have the resources to pay but willfully refuse to provide support for their children. These are individuals for whom there can be no sympathy. And on behalf of their children, we are redoubling our efforts to locate them. And on behalf of all children, a public message needs to be sent about these parents.

The Child Support Recovery Act of 1992 made it a Federal crime to willfully fail to pay a past-due child support obligation for a child living in another state. In 1996, President Clinton proposed to make it a felony to cross state lines to avoid paying child support and last year, Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998. The Act creates two new categories of felonies, with penalties of up to two years in

prison: (1) traveling across state or country lines with the intent to evade child support payments if the child support obligation has remained unpaid for a period longer than one year or is greater than \$5,000; and (2) when the child support obligation has remained unpaid for a period of longer than two years, or is greater than \$10,000, willful failure to pay child support to a child residing in another state.

Project Save Our Children

Our newest initiative, Project Save Our Children, is targeted at this small but reprehensible group of parents who over long periods of time willfully fail to take responsibility for their children. By prosecuting parents who have been ordered to pay support but will not do so, we are sending a pointed message of responsibility to them and helping to give their children a better chance in life.

Under this initiative HHS will launch task forces in 17 states (California, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington) and the District of Columbia. State child support offices will refer their most serious delinquent child support cases to these sites, where trained investigative staff will locate the violator, document information needed for prosecution, and then provide the investigated case to the appropriate prosecutor.

The new teams are based on a model project in Columbus, Ohio, launched last summer. The Midwest law enforcement task force, formed by the HHS Office of Child Support Enforcement and HHS Inspector General's Office, joined with Justice Department prosecutors and

investigators, state child support agencies, and local law enforcement officials to coordinate efforts in a new investigative team, with promising results so far. To date, 405 cases have been received and 311 of them have been referred to the investigative units, with 196 arrests being made. More than \$3.6 million in overdue support has been ordered.

The first task force covers three states: Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. The hub of this task force is an investigative unit located in Columbus, Ohio, that employs a number of sophisticated automated information systems and data bases (both government and commercial), the purpose of which is to locate non-payers and their assets. Four more hub sites, covering 14 additional States and the District of Columbia, will be operational by the end of the first year. My colleague here from the HHS Office of Inspector General will tell you more about the task force operations.

But suffice it to say, with this initiative we will identify, investigate, and, when warranted, prosecute flagrant, delinquent child support offenders, and collect all outstanding payments. Our goal is a nationwide, comprehensive, coordinated Health and Human Services/Justice Department response to unresolved interstate and intrastate child support enforcement cases alike.

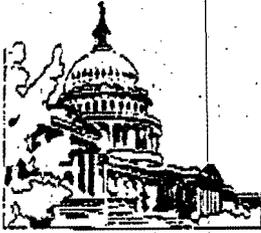
To help accomplish this, the Administration has proposed additional spending in the FY 2000 budget request. This money will pay for establishing investigative teams in five regions of the country to identify, analyze, and investigate cases for prosecution. Also the President's FY 2000

budget proposes additional Justice Department resources for legal support personnel in the U.S. Attorneys offices, which will allow increase prosecutions of deadbeat parents.

Let me re-emphasize that this effort deals primarily with the most serious and flagrant delinquent child support cases. It is an effort to work with our state and local partners in a new, more vigorous manner.

We are in the beginning stages of an initiative that we feel has great promise and are moving toward broader implementation. My colleague from the Office of the Inspector General will provide you with more detail on the results we have obtained thus far.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for your invitation to testify before you today. Our intent is to let everyone know that parents will be held accountable for supporting their children. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Testimony

**Before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Commerce,
United States House of Representatives**

OIG Efforts Involving the CSE Program

**Statement of
John E. Hartwig
Deputy Inspector General for
Investigations**

February 24, 1999



**Office of Inspector General
Department of Health and Human Services**

**For Release on Delivery
Expected at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 24, 1999**

Introduction

Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I am John E. Hartwig, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Inspector General shares your keen interest in improving the child support system, which serves some of the nation's most important citizens--its families and children. I am here today to highlight a new law enforcement initiative which we believe holds great promise for improving accountability of absent parents in meeting their child support obligations.

The Child Support Problem

On December 31, 1998, the Administration for Children and Families reported that the Federal/State child support enforcement programs collected an estimated \$14.4 billion for Fiscal Year 1998, an increase of 7 percent from 1997's \$13.4 billion, and an increase of 80 percent since 1992 when \$8 billion was collected. In addition, the Federal Government collected over \$1.1 billion in delinquent child support from what was to have been Federal income tax refunds for tax year 1997. Collections were made on behalf of nearly 1.3 million families.

Although collections have increased dramatically, much work still remains to be done. According to the recently released Administration for Children and Families' 21st Annual Report to Congress, total child support payments collected in Fiscal Year 1996 were \$12 billion; yet \$45 billion in delinquent child support payments still remained to be collected.

Caseloads also continued to increase, rising from 15 million in Fiscal Year 1992 to 19 million in Fiscal Year 1996. While 1 million new support orders were established in Fiscal Year 1996, of the 19 million cases, 59 percent had court-approved child support orders. A total of only 4 million of these cases, one-fifth of the total caseload, resulted in a collection of child support. To the extent that these payments are not collected, the children of these families are at greater risk of welfare dependency.

Progress is also being made in the steps required of custodial parents in order to receive child support payments with approximately one million paternities established in Fiscal Year 1996. Paternity establishment is one of these first steps required to enforce child support obligations. Almost one-third of all children currently on public assistance lack a paternity establishment, but new time limits on welfare benefits are likely to increase the incentive for establishing paternity and collecting child support.

The Federal Child Support Program

The Child Support Enforcement Program is a Federal/State partnership designed to foster family responsibility and reduce the need for welfare and its cost to the taxpayer by ensuring that children are supported financially by both of their parents. All parents with custody of children who need or are owed child support can get help from their State or local child support enforcement agency. Each state designates an agency to administer the five mandated purposes of the program: to locate non-custodial parents, establish paternity through testing or

consent, establish orders for child support, enforce those orders, and collect child support payments. This is accomplished through the courts or administrative processes. Partial funding and oversight of the program is provided by the Federal government.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (the Act) strengthened the ability of the child support enforcement program to collect support on behalf of children and families and created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the primary Federal public assistance program. Applicants for TANF assign their rights to support payments to the State as a condition of receipt of assistance. For non-welfare cases, child support collections are forwarded to the custodial family. By securing support on a consistent and continuing basis, non-welfare families may avoid dependency on public assistance and welfare spending is reduced.

History of Office of Inspector General Efforts

The Office of Inspector General has a long and productive history of contributing to improving the child support system. Over many years, our audits and evaluations have addressed problems and offered solutions on such matters as paternity establishment, medical support, collection methods, management information systems, interagency collaboration, incentive funding, support order upgrading, and interface with the Federal income tax system. We have piloted many of the procedures that are now widely accepted in the field of child support

enforcement. We are very proud of the ideas and information that we contributed to improving these efforts.

In this vein, I would like to describe for you now an exciting new avenue of improvement based on criminal law enforcement.

Law Enforcement Efforts

The Child Support Recovery Act of 1992 made it a Federal offense to willfully avoid paying court-ordered child support obligations for a child residing in another State. Two felony provisions were added when the act was amended in 1998. The Office of Inspector General Office of Investigations began to investigate violations of the Child Support Recovery Act, initially focusing on those cases where the custodial parent was forced to enroll in public assistance because payments were not made by the non-custodial parent. We have extended our investigations to include all violations of the Child Support Recovery Act, but we continue to place a higher priority on those cases involving Federal public assistance funds due to the effect on the program and the vulnerability of those children and custodial parents. As with our investigative authorization with health care cases, the Department of Justice granted special deputy United States Marshal status on all of our child support enforcement cases. This status enables all our agents to carry firearms and execute arrest warrants in these cases, which significantly increases their ability to effectively investigate these cases.

In general, all of our agents undergo the full 9-week training regimen at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia, which is also used by over 80 Federal law enforcement agencies to train Federal agents, including the Secret Service and the Customs Service. The Federal training program includes criminal investigative techniques, applicable Federal laws, arrest techniques, and use of firearms. Additionally, all our agents undergo several weeks of training concentrated on the Office of Inspector General, statutes and responsibilities, and receive a thorough grounding in the programs with the Department. Our agents regularly receive updated training on new methods and techniques and must demonstrate firearms proficiency quarterly. In total, new investigative agents receive approximately 500 hours of specialized training during their first two years on the job.

Accomplishments

Since beginning our efforts in the area of child support enforcement, we have initiated over 600 cases, making or coordinating over 150 arrests. These cases have resulted in over 100 convictions and over \$7.6 million in back child support being ordered as part of the sentencing of the subjects. While we are very proud of these numbers, we realize that these accomplishments are small when compared to the massive number of delinquent cases. Therefore, our focus has been to work with State Child Support Offices and the United States Attorney's Offices to choose the most egregious cases, such as those with the highest arrearage, or where the health and welfare of the children are at risk due to lack of support. We feel that these high profile cases serve as a deterrent to other non-custodial parents who are

not making payments. Ultimately, the goal isn't to put people in jail. By publicizing arrests and prosecutions we hope that those people who may be sitting on the fence and not paying their child support obligations will realize the consequences of their failure to pay. The following are examples of our case work.

1. A Border Patrol agent quit his job with the government after the INS began to withhold child support payments from his salary. He informed his former spouse that he would never pay his support, and that he was quitting his job and leaving the country so that he could not be found. After extensive investigation involving searching through computerized databases, the man was located in Hawaii, where he had started a scuba diving school. He was arrested on the dock when he brought his boat in after a class. He pled guilty and was sentenced to pay the full amount of child support owed - \$17,000. This case is an example of a parent who went to great lengths to avoid paying child support when he clearly had the ability to pay.
2. A man who was both a plastic surgeon and attorney was arrested in New York on charges that he owed over \$172,000 in child support. The case came to the attention of federal authorities through the surgeon's father-in-law, who was outraged that his son-in-law was not paying child support, despite his significant assets, which included a \$300,000 home. During his appearance in court, the subject told the judge that his annual salary was only \$30,000 a year as a surgeon. Understandably, the judge was not

inclined to believe him and ordered him to pay all back child support. The man had previous altercations with police and at the time of arrest several automatic weapons were seized.

3. There is currently an outstanding felony indictment and arrest warrant against a former professional football player. He has already been convicted under the misdemeanor provisions of the Child Support Recovery Act. But even after that conviction, he failed to comply so a criminal complaint was issued and he was arrested. He appeared in court and asked the judge to release him on his own recognizance so that he could try out with another pro football team. He has not been seen since so a felony indictment and arrest warrant have been issued. He is currently a fugitive and owes over \$95,000 in child support.

These examples of investigative work illustrate the incredible lengths that non-custodial parents may go to avoid paying their child support obligations, even those that clearly have sufficient means.

Law Enforcement Partnership

In the Fall of 1996, we began meeting with officials in the Office of Child Support Enforcement about combining our resources and strategically targeting our efforts to improve prosecutions of child support cases at the Federal level. Based upon our experience working with Federal

partners and State and local officials on health care fraud matters, we know that the most successful way to tackle complex problems and improve investigative and prosecution efforts is to form a collaborative partnership. Working with the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), we developed a task force approach to bring together the social service and criminal justice agencies involved in child support enforcement at both the State and Federal levels to identify, investigate, and prosecute the most egregious offenders. Members on the task force include OIG special agents, FBI agents, U.S. Marshals, U.S. Attorneys and local District Attorneys, State child support enforcement staff, and State and local police. The task force will also attempt to identify and resolve the obstacles that have stood in the way of enforcing the child support laws. Currently we have one task force in Columbus, Ohio, which began operating in May, 1998, and covers three States - Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. We have just begun a second task force in Baltimore, and three additional task forces will be starting up during the next few months in New York City, Dallas, and Sacramento. These cities were selected as a result of a decision to co-locate with the OCSE audit offices. In addition, OIG, DOJ, State, and local resources required for task force efforts are readily available at these sites.

One of the most important improvements made through the task forces include developing "Case Screening Units" for each task force. Working with the State Child Support Offices, these units will identify the most promising cases. The screening units, manned by analysts, will utilize public and private data bases to conduct a pre-investigation to determine the

whereabouts of the subjects and also identify any assets that these subjects may possess. Once this information is established, the cases and the new information will be forwarded to the agents, who will then conduct a formal investigation in order to verify the information. The completed case package is then brought to the prosecutor with the evidence needed for prosecution already obtained. Using this approach, burdens are reduced on child support case workers and United States Attorney's Offices, and cases receive the necessary financial investigation. The end result is better targeted and investigated cases delivered for prosecution in complete form.

The task forces will also bring local law enforcement into the arena. Where before, local law enforcement was mostly utilized to serve civil contempt warrants, in these task forces we are using local law enforcement in their capacity as white collar fraud investigators in order to investigate intra-state cases for potential criminal prosecution. The task forces are also bringing in the local District Attorneys' offices to prosecute these cases. The task forces are trying to demonstrate that State criminal statutes can be effective in enforcing individual orders and serving as a deterrent. This partnership is important because only one out of every three child support cases is interstate, meaning that the majority must be adjudicated at the state level. The task forces bring together both Federal and State partners so that the maximum number of cases can be handled at the appropriate level.

Our first task force has already delivered significant results and promises to deliver more in the future. Over 400 cases have been referred to the task force's screening unit in Columbus. These cases have been fairly equally divided between inter and intrastate cases. Thus far, the task force has investigated over 300 cases with over 180 arrests and 170 convictions or civil resolutions resulting. These convictions and settlements have resulted in over \$3.8 million in child support being ordered. The task force has worked closely with the public affairs offices of the States, law enforcement agencies, and criminal justice agencies to make sure that the arrests and convictions receive public attention in the hope of raising the public's awareness of the problems and the potential for prosecution. After one highly publicized arrest in Michigan the county child support office reported a substantial rise in the amount of money collected the week following the broadcast. These collections, largely walk-ins, came from sources who had not paid any money in the recent past. It is our belief that the only reason that these payments started is because of publicizing the arrest.

Other Work

Complementing our law enforcement work and building on the foundation of work mentioned earlier, the Office of Inspector General continues to conduct studies aimed at strengthening the child support enforcement system. We are currently examining (1) methods to increase cooperation of welfare recipients in establishing paternity and locating absent parents; (2) ways to further improve voluntary paternity acknowledgment in hospitals at the time of birth; (3) the effectiveness of current procedures for obtaining medical insurance coverage or other forms of

medical support for children; and (4) evaluating the Federal Parent Locator Service. We are now finalizing work on the periodic review and adjustment of support orders, a process that helps children by taking advantage of the normal increases in income that young absent parents receive as they mature in their jobs. This latter study supports legislation offered by the Administration in its Fiscal Year 2000 budget to require that such adjustments be made. We will be happy to keep you and your staff informed as we finish each study.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments this morning have been useful for you and the committee as you consider your own agenda for improving the Federal child support enforcement system. Child support is one of the Department's most vital programs serving some of our most vulnerable population and a key factor in the long-term success of moving families off of public assistance and making them economically self-sufficient. The Office of Inspector General is committed at all levels to improving the system through our audits and evaluations and to providing law enforcement leadership to increase successful prosecutions of criminal violations of federal child support laws.

LRM ID: MDH29

SUBJECT: HHS Testimony on Tracking "Deadbeat" Parents

RESPONSE TO
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL
MEMORANDUM

If your response to this request for views is short (e.g., concur/no comment), we prefer that you respond by e-mail or by faxing us this response sheet. If the response is short and you prefer to call, please call the branch-wide line shown below (NOT the analyst's line) to leave a message with a legislative assistant.

You may also respond by:

(1) calling the analyst/attorney's direct line (you will be connected to voice mail if the analyst does not answer); or

(2) sending us a memo or letter

Please include the LRM number shown above, and the subject shown below.

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Office of Management and Budget
Branch-Wide Line (to reach legislative assistant): 395-7362

FROM:

2/23 (Date)
Cynthia Rice (Name)
DPC (Agency)
62846 (Telephone)

The following is the response of our agency to your request for views on the above-captioned subject:

Concur

No Objection

No Comment

See proposed edits on pages _____

Other: _____

FAX RETURN of 9 pages, attached to this response sheet

**Testimony of
John Monahan
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families**

Greetings and Introduction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for providing the opportunity for me to testify today on the progress the nation's child support enforcement program is making to help children across America.

As the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families, I supervise the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement and have worked closely with Commissioner David Ross and his team to develop ways to ensure that parents who owe child support ~~understand and~~ honor their obligations to their children.

President Clinton has made child support enforcement a top priority, and it is paying off. We recently reached new performance records for the program. ~~We reported that the Federal/state child support program collected an estimated~~ ^{In 1998, we} ~~collected an estimated~~ ^{\$14.5}

14.4?

\$14.5

billion for ~~fiscal year 1998~~, an increase of over 80 percent since 1992 when only \$8 billion was collected. Included in the amount is a record \$1.1 billion in delinquent child support collected from Federal income tax refunds for tax year 1997. This was a 70 percent increase since 1992 and collections were made on behalf of nearly 1.3 million families. In 1997 we also established 1.3 million paternities, an increase of more than 100 percent since 1992 when 516,949 were established.

With your help, the President signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in August 1996. Better known as welfare reform, the law provides ~~enormous~~ ^{critical} new tools to improve the child support program's performance for children - central registries of child support orders, a national directory of new hires, streamlined paternity establishment procedures, uniform interstate child support laws, license revocation, and passport denial. Whether through use of greater automation, simpler interstate procedures or tougher new penalties, we are working with our state and local partners to make sure that no parent can ignore their financial obligation toward their children, especially when they have the resources to meet their child support obligations. An example of the success we already seeing from the 1996 welfare law is the National Directory of

New Hires which last year located 1.2 million delinquent parents in interstate cases.

Child support is an essential part of welfare reform because it sends a message of responsibility to both parents and is a vital part of moving families toward work and self-sufficiency. It helps to ensure that single parent families and their children don't need to rely on welfare in the first place and for those who leave welfare, it can help to ensure that they don't fall back on the welfare ^{rolls} ~~roles~~ once they have left ~~it~~. Child support enforcement affects far more people than just those on welfare. Children in working poor and middle class families depend upon child support for greater financial security as well.

We are proud of this Administration's record on child support enforcement, but, as the President has said on numerous occasions, we need to do more.

The Child Support Enforcement Program

I would like to give you a brief overview of how the Nation's child support enforcement program operates. The program was established in 1975 under title IV-D of the Social Security Act as a joint Federal/State partnership. As a Federal/State/local

partnership, it functions in all States and territories, generally through social services departments, but also through State Attorneys Generals offices or Departments of Revenues. Most States work with prosecuting attorneys and other law enforcement agencies and officials of family or domestic relations courts to carry out the program at the local level.

The child support program locates non-custodial parents, establishes paternity, establishes and enforces support orders, and collects child support payments from those who are legally obligated to pay. While programs vary from state to state, services are available to all parents who need them. States are largely responsible for operating the program, but there tends to be greater Federal involvement in the interstate caseload, which makes up nearly a third of all cases. The Federal Government shares in the cost of funding the CSE program by contributing to states' administrative costs and providing incentive payments to them. Since 1975 the program has been continually strengthened through Federal and State statutory and executive actions.

Chronic Nonpayers and the Deadbeat Parents Act

We know that many non-custodial parents take seriously their responsibilities to pay child support regularly and on time. These parents recognize the importance of the financial and emotional support their children need and voluntarily meet these responsibilities. And for the majority of non-custodial parents who do not voluntarily meet their responsibilities, routine enforcement tools like wage withholding or license revocation, will be sufficient to require them to pay their financial obligation.

However, for a small minority of cases, even tougher enforcement penalties must be imposed. These are the most flagrant cases, where people have the resources to pay but willfully refuse to provide support for their children. These are individuals for whom there can be no sympathy. And on behalf of their children, we are redoubling our efforts to locate them.

The Child Support Recovery Act of 1992 made it a Federal crime to willfully fail to pay a past-due child support obligation for a child living in another state. *In 1996 President Clinton proposed to make it a felony* ~~Last year, Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998, because he was concerned that current~~

to cross state lines to avoid paying child support and

law was too soft on these most serious cases of neglect. The Act creates two new categories of felonies, with penalties of up to two years in prison: (1) traveling across state or country lines with the intent to evade child support payments is now a felony if the child support obligation has remained unpaid for a period longer than one year or is greater than \$5,000; and (2) when the child support obligation has remained unpaid for a period of longer than two years, or is greater than \$10,000, willful failure to pay child support to a child residing in another state is considered a felony. U.S. Attorneys ~~throughout the nation~~ ^{under the guidance of the Justice Department} and ~~in cooperation with the States~~ ^{will prosecute these crimes, and} **Project Save Our Children** the President in his FY 2000 budget has proposed additional resources for legal support personnel to prosecute these deadbeat parents. Our newest initiative, Project Save Our Children, is targeted at this group of parents who over long periods of time willfully fail to take responsibility for their children. By prosecuting parents who have been ordered to pay support but will not do so, we are sending a pointed message of responsibility to them and helping to give their children a better chance in life.

which together have 63 percent of the nation's dead support cases.

Under this initiative HHS will launch
~~Project Save Our Children is a coalition of task forces which~~
~~will eventually cover 17 states and the District of Columbia.~~

in 44 states

(California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York,

Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington.) The initiative addresses interstate cases by: (1) creating a formal partnership between CSE and the criminal justice system; (2) devising new ways to analyze and interpret information; and (3) making child support enforcement a priority with the criminal justice community.

→ Insert from page 8-9

The new teams are based on a model project in Columbus, Ohio, ~~launched earlier this year~~ ^{last summer}. The Midwest law enforcement task force, formed by the HHS Office of Child Support Enforcement and HHS Inspector General's Office, joined with Justice Department prosecutors and investigators, state child support agencies, and local law officials to coordinate efforts in a new investigative team, with promising results so far. To date, 405 cases have been received and 311 of them have been referred to the investigative units, with 196 arrests being made. More than \$3.6 million in overdue support has been ordered.

ADD
how
much of
an
increase?

The first task force covers three states: Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. The hub of this task force is an ~~information platform~~ ^{investigative unit located} in Columbus, Ohio that employs a number of sophisticated automated information systems and data bases (both government and commercial), the purpose of which is to locate non-payers and their assets. Four more hub sites, covering 14 additional

States and the District of Columbia, will be operational by the end of the first year. My colleague here from the HHS Office of Inspector General will tell you more about the task force operations.

But suffice it to say, ~~with this initiative we~~ *with this initiative we* Project Save Our Children will identify, investigate, and, when warranted, prosecute flagrant, delinquent child support offenders, and collect all outstanding payments. Our goal is a nationwide, comprehensive, coordinated Health and Human Services/Justice Department response to unresolved interstate and intrastate child support enforcement cases alike.

To help accomplish this, the Administration has proposed additional spending in the FY 2000 budget request. This money will pay for establishing investigative teams in five regions of the country to identify, analyze, and investigate cases for prosecution. The 17 states (and the District of Columbia) in these five regions have 63 percent of the nation's child support cases.

State child support offices will refer their most serious delinquent child support cases to these sites, where trained investigative staff will locate the violator, document

move to page 7

information needed for prosecution, and then provide the investigated case to the appropriate prosecutor.

Let me re-emphasize that ^{this effort} Project Save Our Children deals ^{primarily} with the most serious and flagrant delinquent child support cases. It is an effort to work with our state and local partners in a new, more vigorous manner.

We are in the beginning stages of an initiative that we feel has great promise and are moving toward broader implementation. My colleague from the Office of the Inspector General will provide you with more detail on the results we have obtained thus far.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for your invitation to testify before you today. Our intent is to let everyone know that parents will be held accountable for supporting their children. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Andrea Kane

02/23/99 09:10:54
AM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa N. Benton/OMB/EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, J. Eric Gould/OPD/EOP

cc: jmonahan @ acf.dhhs.gov@INET@LNGTWY

Subject: Monahan Child Support Testimony

I'd suggest adding something like the following after the 2nd sentence in the 1st paragraph on p. 5 of the testimony, unless others think this will confuse the message too much:

We also know there are many low income non-custodial parents who want to do the right thing and support their children but they do not earn enough to meet their child support responsibilities. The President's Welfare-to-Work reauthorization proposal will help such fathers increase their employment so they can better support their children.

From: Melissa N. Benton on 02/23/99 10:42:54 AM

Record Type: Record

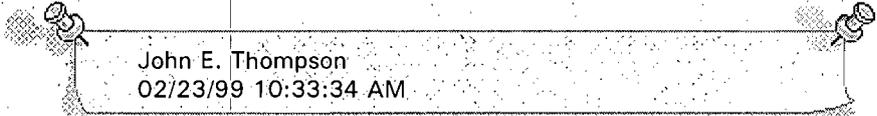
To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Child Support testimony

OK?

----- Forwarded by Melissa N. Benton/OMB/EOP on 02/23/99 10:42 AM -----


John E. Thompson
02/23/99 10:33:34 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa N. Benton/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc: David J. Haun/OMB/EOP@EOP

Subject: Child Support testimony

I would reword the U.S. Attorneys insert on page 6 as follows:

The Justice Department, through the U.S. Attorneys, will prosecute these crimes, and the President's FY 2000 budget proposes additional resources for legal support personnel, which will allow increased prosecutions of deadbeat parents.

Total Pages: 11

LRM ID: MDH29

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001

Monday, February 22, 1999

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below
Janet R. Forsgren
 FROM: Janet R. Forsgren (for Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
 OMB CONTACT: Melissa N. Benton
 PHONE: (202)395-7887 FAX: (202)395-6148
 SUBJECT: HHS Testimony on Tracking "Deadbeat" Parents

DEADLINE: * * 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 23, 1999 * *

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for purposes of the "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

COMMENTS: The attached HHS (Monahan) testimony will be delivered before the House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations at a February 24th hearing on "tracking 'deadbeat' parents."

THIS DEADLINE IS FIRM. IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU BY THE COMMENT DEADLINE, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION.

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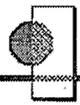
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New



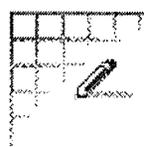
Cynthia A. Rice

04/14/98 02:09:41 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: child support enforcement information

----- Forwarded by Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP on 04/14/98 02:09 PM -----

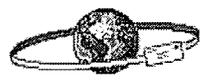


Donna L. Geisbert
04/14/98 01:07:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: child support enforcement information

----- Forwarded by Donna L. Geisbert/OPD/EOP on 04/14/98 01:07 PM -----



JDorskind @ OSEC20.osec.doc.gov
04/14/98 11:13:58 AM

Please respond to JDorskind@OSEC20.osec.doc.gov

Record Type: Record

To: Donna L. Geisbert/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: child support enforcement information

Donna,

Thanks for forwarding this email to Cynthia

I previously provided some or all of this information orally (by voicemail), but I neglected to forward this email. If Cynthia needs more information, just let me know. Otherwise, I think I've closed the DoC loop.

Thanks again.

jd

Jim Dorskind
Director, Executive Secretariat
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
Ph: 202-482-3934 Fax: 202-482-4576 jdorskind@doc.gov

Original Text
From: Kathryn Lunney@GC@OGC, on 4/14/1998 10:13 AM:
To: James A. Dorskind@ExSec@OSEC

From: Kathryn Lunney@GC@OGC, on 3/31/98 3:21 PM:
To: James A. Dorskind@ExSec@OSEC
Cc: Monica Medina@GC@NOAA

I spoke with Monica. This statute, and another relating to deep sea mining which was not covered in the White House memo, are ahead of their time as the benefits of working in and around the deep sea vents are not yet known and the costs are substantial. Monica tells me that these licenses can theoretically be given to individuals but the investment to carry out the work is so great that licenses will almost always be sought by companies and institutions.

From: Craig R. O'Connor@GC@NOAA, on 3/31/98 9:36 AM:
To: James A. Dorskind@ExSec@OSEC, Kathryn Lunney@GC@OGC

Kit and Jim - I am re-sending the message that Craig sent out last week. Apparently you did not receive it. I hope this answers the mail. Sorry for the confusion. Monica

From: Craig R. O'Connor@GC@NOAA, on 3/23/1998 4:31 PM:
To: Kathryn Lunney@GC@OGC
Cc: Monica Medina@GC@NOAA

Kit - to close the loop re child support matter. Of the licenses noted, NOAA only issues those re Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (42 USC 9111). We have never issued such a license, however. With regard to the other statutes: 43 (actually 46) USC 7101, 46 USC 7103, 46 USC 7104, 46 USC 7112, 46 USC 7316, 46 USC 7317 and 46 USC ap1718, all of these statutes are administered by the US Coast Guard (actually, the Secretary of the department with the Coast Guard in it, i.e. the Department of Transportation).

This should finalize NOAA's input into this project.

On another note, could you please have some advise us on what criterion your office uses for promotion of attorney from GS 14 to 15. thanks.
Craig