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Amnesty Offered for those Delinquent on Child Support

Cincinnati (Aug. 17, 2008) More than 3,000 local residents who have child support-related warrants issued through Hamilton County's Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts can take advantage of amnesty this week and re-engage with the child support system without penalty.

Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services is offering amnesty throughout this week to those with child support-related warrants. To participate, just show up at the Juvenile Courthouse, 800 Broadway, and make arrangements to start paying on delinquent support.

"You don't have to pay everything right now; we just want to hear from you, get you plugged back into the system, get your warrants vacated and start working on a payment plan to make sure your children get the support they need," said Moira Weir, director of the Department of Job and Family Services, which houses the county's Child Support Enforcement Agency. "In this economy, it is crucial that children get support to meet their basic needs."

Amnesty for child support-related warrants is being offered in addition to the department's month-long offer of amnesty to more than 16,000 county residents whose driver's licenses were suspended for failing to pay child support. For more information on either initiative, call 946-1000.

Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 88,000 cases a year. Last year, it collected \$154 million for families that might not otherwise have had the financial support necessary to pay for such items as food, medical care, child care, school clothes and school supplies. Many of the children who do not receive child support turn to public assistance, with taxpayers providing financial support.

In addition to amnesty offers, Hamilton County Child Support uses a variety of tools to collect child support, including a Most Wanted poster, intercepting tax returns, denying passports, freezing and seizing funds from bank accounts, and suspending licenses.

About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, adult protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands of residents each year. The Department of Job and Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.