

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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Mike Schwindt retires from N.D. Department of Human Services

BISMARCK ND – The North Dakota Department of Human Services announced today that Mike Schwindt, director of the department's Child Support Enforcement Division, is retiring.

"On behalf of the Department, I want to express our thanks to Mike for devoting over 35 years of exemplary service to the citizens of North Dakota," said department Executive Director Carol K. Olson. "We certainly wish him well."

Schwindt joined the department in December 1978 as director of management services. In November 1998, Olson selected Mike to lead the department's Child Support Enforcement Division.

"Over the past 12 years Mike has transformed a program that was facing federal penalties into one of the top performing child support enforcement programs in the country," Olson said.

In 2008, the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) honored Schwindt with the *Outstanding Manager Award*, and awarded North Dakota the *Outstanding Program Award*. During 2007, North Dakota received regional and national awards for an innovative program Schwindt championed that helps non-custodial parents find work or better paying jobs.

Under Schwindt's leadership in the late 1990s, the state disbursement unit assumed collection, recording, and disbursement functions from the county clerks of courts. He also oversaw the transition from paper checks to electronic payments via debit cards and direct deposit. Most recently, he led the transition as the eight regional child support enforcement units moved from county to state agency administration.

Prior to joining Human Services, Mike served as the Chief Auditor in the State Auditor's Office. Additionally, he was one of the founders of and served on the board of directors for the North Dakota Insurance Reserve fund for 12 years. He also served on the State Board of Accountancy for 10 years.

North Dakota's Child Support Enforcement Program currently serves about 60,000 children and 90,000 parents and collects in excess of \$120 million per year.

Until a replacement is named, Olson said, division deputy director and legal counsel Jim Fleming will serve as the acting director.

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