

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

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N.D. Child Support Sets New Collections Record, Changes Division Name

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services announced today that its Child Support Division collected a record \$140.96 million in court-ordered child support payments in 2012, surpassing last year’s collection amount by 4.25 percent. The division also set an all-time monthly collections record of \$14 million in March 2012.

In addition to the collection records, the department has officially removed the word “Enforcement” from the division’s name. The name change better represents the division’s current mission of working with parents to promote affordable child support obligations and reliable payments so that children’s needs are met and families do not have to rely on public assistance.

“The success story today is that North Dakota parents do a good job of supporting their children,” said Jim Fleming, director of the Child Support Division. “In 2012, over 75 percent of current support was paid on time, and another \$21 million in past-due support was collected.”

Fleming also said that there are some key factors involved with the record-setting collection totals. These factors include support from the business community through income withholding and employer usage of the division’s website for reporting new hires and remitting funds, the new online lien registry, and good customer service from child support staff to parents and families.

He also said the child support division offers many services to help parents meet their obligation, modify an obligation to match changes in a parent’s income, and manage the interest owed on past-due and unpaid child support.

According to department records, roughly 86 percent of the collected funds go directly to families. The remaining 14 percent goes to reimburse public assistance programs, to other states for children living there, and to the federal government.

Fleming said that even though North Dakota ranks second best in the country on federal performance measures, the state cannot relax its work on behalf of children and families. “The statewide balance of unpaid child support is not yet at the point where it declines each year,” he said.

The N.D. Child Support program serves over 65,100 children and 78,700 parents.

More information about the Child Support Division is online at www.childsupportnd.com.

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