

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2006

Contacts: Mike Schwindt, Director, Child Support Enforcement Division, N.D. Dept. of Human Services, 701-328-7501 or 701-328-3582; or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, N.D. Dept. of Human Services, 701-328-4933 or 701-527-7445.

ND Child Support Enforcement Program honored for excellence

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Western Interstate Child Support Enforcement Council (WICSEC) notified the North Dakota Department of Human Services that the council is presenting the state's child support enforcement program with the 2006 WICSEC Excellence Award for Outstanding Program at the State Level.

In a letter to Child Support Enforcement Division Director Mike Schwindt, council president Katherine Sokolik stated, "The criteria for the Outstanding Program Award are satisfied only when a program consistently and comprehensively exemplifies the best in child support enforcement – in all facets of customer service and performance."

North Dakota currently ranks second in the nation among states and territories on federal child support enforcement performance measures. States are compared on five factors including paternity establishment, support orders established, and child support actually paid in the month it is due.

Schwindt will be accepting the award on behalf of North Dakota at WICSEC's Annual Training Conference on November 13 in Seattle.

WICSEC Vice President David Stillman, who is also Washington state's Child Support Enforcement Program Director, praised Schwindt and North Dakota child support enforcement workers for doing outstanding work and said the award is well deserved.

WICSEC is an organization of public and private child support professionals from the states west of the Mississippi. The organization is committed to improving child support enforcement for the benefit of the children and parents served.

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November 3, 2006

Mike Schwindt, Director
Office of Child Support Enforcement
Department of Human Services
1600 Century Avenue, Suite 7
PO Box 7190
Bismarck, ND 58507-7190

Dear Mr. Schwindt,

I am extremely pleased to announce that the North Dakota Child Support Enforcement program will receive the 2006 WICSEC Excellence Award for Outstanding Program at the State Level. The criteria for the Outstanding Program Award are satisfied only when a program consistently and comprehensively exemplifies the best in child support enforcement – in all facets of customer service and performance. You and your staff are to be commended for the exceptional work that you do.

The award will be presented during our opening Plenary Session, Monday November 12, 2006. Our Vice President David Stillman (who is also the Washington State IV-D Director) is coordinating the awards. Please let David know the details of who can accept the award on behalf of your state. He can also assist with other questions you may have.

On behalf of WICSEC, thank you – and we look forward to seeing you in Seattle November 12-16!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Katherine J. Sokolik'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Katherine J Sokolik