

From: Leandra Castillo <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 6:41 PM  
To: Lujan, John, HSD <John.Lujan2@state.nm.us>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment child support guidelines 2022

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My name is Leandra Castillo I am a resident in of Farmington, New Mexico. I am asking that if the choice has to be made to lower the guidelines or keep them the same, that they be kept the same and if the non custodial parent be awarded a reserve that the custodial parent also be rewarded the same. After reading the transcript from the last hearing In August 2022, I saw it quoted that "There is a correlation between high support orders and contact with their children" I would like to challenge that notion by telling you my own story from two different perspectives. In my parents case Valencia vs Castillo (which is closed) the custodial parent was left with three children under the age of 10. The non custodial parent didn't see the children for a whole year before a CSED case was opened. After that non custodial parent obtained a minimum wage job and worked a job under the table until the youngest child was 18 so the obligation would stay at the minimum. Still never saw his children. My personal case [REDACTED] I told my sons father that I would not ask for help through CSED as long as he played an active role in my sons life and helped with things he needed. He hasn't tried to see my 4 year old son nor has he seen him since he was 6 months old and has time and time again tried to get out of paying the court ordered amount. He voluntarily quit his job in February 2022 and claims to be unemployed but in March of 2022 was posted on a local car dealerships page after he purchased a new 2022 Jeep Wagoneer and has since paid \$100 on sporadic months. I was told that he could pay \$100 a month for the next 18 years if he wanted to with no repercussions because that is the minimum requirement. In both of these cases in regards to child support and on paper both of these non custodial parents are considered "low income" and even with them being "low income" and not being required to support their children to the fullest extent of their possibility they still didn't and don't contact or play an active role in their children's lives. With permission of the custodial parents, I have 2 more examples where the non custodial parent is considered low income, ordered to pay a minuscule amount and is not or was not actively in their children's lives.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

My point is lowering the guidelines and or creating a reserve is not going to encourage non custodial parents to play an active role its only going to take from financial security from the children.

It is My opinion that more non custodial parents would be inclined to pay their full court ordered child support if the custodial parent would have to be accountable for where the money is spent and if it is contributing to the children(s) support.

Child Support enforcement is about the children. It is not to weigh on the side of either parent.  
Thank you for your time.