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For Immediate Release

National Medical Support Notices sent to Thousands of New Mexico Employers of Non-Custodial Parents

Santa Fe, December 3, 2003 – The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) has begun phasing in a new child support enforcement tool that will help reduce the number of uninsured children in our state. The National Medical Support Notice (NMSN) was supported by the Governor and passed by the legislature earlier this year, and is being sent to employers of non-custodial parents who have been ordered to provide health insurance coverage for their child or children but have not provided proof of enrollment. “This tool allows the state to go directly to the employer and sign the child up for health insurance,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. “This effort will secure private health insurance coverage for more children and put a dent in the uninsured population, and possibly reduce Medicaid enrollment in New Mexico.”

The first notices were sent in October and have already generated positive responses. Of the 754 cases, 75 Medicaid eligible dependents have been linked to private insurance coverage. The Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) will send out additional notices to some 2,767 employers of non-custodial parents beginning in January. “As the business community has been a real asset in helping to make the child support system effective across New Mexico, I have no doubt they will once again step up to the plate,” said Senator and businessman Leonard Lee Rawson. “Businesses need to be recognized for going the extra mile by absorbing the administrative expenses to make these programs work.”

“With 3,521 notices going out, we have the potential of linking 4,962 Medicaid eligible dependents to a private insurance plan,” said Stephanie Gonzales, HSD/CSED Director. Currently more than 267,000, or 44 percent of New Mexico’s children are enrolled in Medicaid with an estimated 52,000 eligible but not enrolled.

New Mexico employers are already required by federal and state law to report newly-hired and re-hired employees to HSD/CSED through the New Hires Directory. The same web site located at <https://elink.hsd.state.nm.us/elink/>, can help employers comply with the NMSN as well. There are also answers to frequently asked questions about the support notices.