



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Bill Richardson
Governor
Diane D. Denish
Lieutenant Governor

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary
Daryl Schwebach, M.P.A.
Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration
Kathryn Falls, M.S.W.
Deputy Secretary for Programs

Contact Marty Eckert 505 670-1683

For Immediate Release

Human Services Department Releases List of ‘Best Parents’ Paying Child Support

Santa Fe, June 15, 2006 – The Human Services Department is required by state statute to release a quarterly list of the *25 Most Wanted* for failure to pay court-ordered child support; however, there has never been a requirement to publish a list of ‘good parents’ when it comes to the state’s Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED). “The idea came from an Albuquerque child support enforcement employee during a visit there earlier this month to talk with line workers,” said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary. “Most states release a ‘most wanted list,’ but I’m not aware of any state ever releasing a ‘best payers’ list. I’m happy that we were able to release a list in time for Fathers’ Day, as about 85 percent of non-custodial parents are dads.”

CSED conducted a computer run to find out how many non-custodial parents were paying their court-ordered child support consistently over the past five years. The division had thousands of names to pick from. Calls were made to the non-custodial parents, who asked if they would be willing to participate in the best payers list. “There are thousands of dads and moms in New Mexico paying their court-ordered child support each and every month,” said Hyde. “We salute them all, whether or not they are using our services.”

The state’s Child Support Enforcement Division helps 60,000 families work through the process of locating absent parents and having a court order established. Each year, the division receives \$80 million in child support, most of which goes to the custodial parent.

Below is the Child Support Enforcement Division’s list of “20 Best-Paying Parents”.

News Media note: Should you want to talk with any of these parents, please call the Human Services Department at 505 670-1683.

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**20 of New Mexico's Best Dads for Consistently
Paying Child Support**

**Lorenzo Barela of Las Cruces
Alexander Cordova of Cimarron
Jeff Dunaj of Albuquerque
Marvin Estrada of Las Vegas
John Garret of Hobbs
Richard Gegenheimer of Hobbs
Henry Gonzales of Clovis
Gary Henderson of Belen
William Hicks of Albuquerque
Thomas Hughes of Artesia
Herman Lujan of Albuquerque
Gregory Montoya of Albuquerque
John Ortiz of Farmington
Gerald Rael of Las Lunas
Teofilo Sanchez of Albuquerque
Eric Sena of Santa Fe
Ryan Shober of Clovis
Patrick Salazar of Raton
Eddie Spotted Bear of Albuquerque
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