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**For Immediate Release**

## **Secretary Pamela Hyde Announces New Socorro Child Support Enforcement Office Now Open for Business**

### **Office Serves Socorro and Catron County Residents**

*Santa Fe, January 22, 2007* –Human Services Department (HSD) Secretary Pamela Hyde is happy to announce the opening of a new office to serve Socorro and Catron County residents with child support enforcement needs. “The Socorro County Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) office is long overdue to help serve the needs of the clients in the central portion of New Mexico,” said Hyde. “This office will mean less driving for those who before had to drive to Albuquerque or Silver City to take care of their child support needs.”

Those living in Socorro and Catron Counties (combined population 21,617) can now receive a full range of child support enforcement services. The new office is co-located with the Income Support Division (ISD), at 1014 North California Street. Both offices are part of the large Human Services Department.

CSED helps any New Mexico family in need of child support enforcement services. “Right now we are serving 650 families in Socorro and Catron Counties,” said Katie Falls, HSD Deputy Secretary. “We expect this to grow as more families decide to take advantage of our important services, closer to their home.”

The new Socorro child support enforcement office employs four people. The goal of the division is to ensure that both parents are responsible for the financial welfare of their child. CSED has many tools to help custodial parents collect child support, which include locating absent parents, establishing paternity, establishing child support court orders and garnishing wages. In some instances, more stringent measures might be needed, such as suspending non-paying parents’ professional licenses, which include teachers, truck drivers, and tradespersons. Hunting and fishing licenses can even be revoked.

Delinquent parents, however, may qualify for a *fresh start* under Governor Bill Richardson’s *Fresh Start* Arrears Management Program. Under *Fresh Start*, delinquent parents may be eligible to renegotiate past due child support debt to a more manageable dollar figure in exchange for a lump sum payment and more reliable payments to the custodial parent. For more information on Governor Bill Richardson’s *Fresh Start* Program or to find out how to apply for child support enforcement help, please see: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/csed/> or call 1-800-288-7207.

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