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For Immediate Release

Human Services Department Releases Child Support Enforcement's *Top 10 Best-Paying Fathers*

List Recognizes New Mexico Father's Who Have Consistently Paid Child Support

Santa Fe, June 15, 2007 – In honor of Father's Day the Human Services Department (HSD) is releasing the *Top 10 Best-Paying Fathers*. This is the second year the department has provided this list. "Too often we hear about are the father's who are behind in paying child support," said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. "The truth of the matter is many more fathers pay their child and we want to make this known especially before Father's Day. These dad's are consistently doing what's best for their children and we honor them for it."

The HSD is required by state statute to release a quarterly list of the *Most Wanted* for failure to pay court-ordered child support; however, there has never been a requirement to publish a list of 'good-paying' parents.

The *Best Fathers* list was compiled from a sample list of non-custodial parents living in New Mexico who have been paying their court-ordered child support consistently and on-time for five or more years. The list was then narrowed down to those who were willing to be on the *Best Fathers* list. "It is important that we receive permission from the fathers to place their names on our list," said Cathi Valdes, CSED Acting Director. "Some of the dad's we reached were satisfied with just doing the right thing, and they did not want to be recognized for just doing what dads are supposed to do. We salute all of them."

The state's CSED helps about 60,000 families work through the process of locating absent parents and having a court order established for child support. This year the CSED is on track to collect a record breaking \$95 million in child support.

Child Support Enforcement's 2007 Best-Paying New Mexico Fathers

**Joseph Cheromiah of Pagate
Alexander Cordova of Cimarron
Henry Gonzales of Clovis
Thomas Hughes of Artesia
Melvin Lopez of Las Cruces
Herman Lujan of Albuquerque
Robert Romero of Santa Fe
Richard Tinajero of Albuquerque
Eloy Trujillo of Santa Fe
Shawn Ware of Las Cruces**

News Media note: Should you want to interview any of these parents, please call the Human Services Department at 505-827-6245 or 505-699-4675.

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