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For Immediate Release

Farmington Child Support Office Leads the Way in Ensuring Parents Get Their Child Support

82 Percent of Non-Custodial Parents in San Juan and McKinley Counties
Have Court Orders for Child Support Payments

Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 6, 2007 – The Farmington Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) office has done something no other state CSED office has yet accomplished; it now has court orders for 82 percent of its customers. “I commend the child support staff in Farmington for their efforts in ensuring custodial parents living in San Juan and McKinley counties get financial support, from the other parent, to help them raise their children,” said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary.

The Farmington child support office is the first of the 16 New Mexico state offices and two Navajo Nation offices (Crownpoint and Shiprock) to achieve an 82 percent court-order rate. This means that eighty percent of all non-custodial parents – wherever they may live – have an obligation for child support and/or medical support for their children living in San Juan and McKinley counties.

Although there are 59,000 custodial parents statewide using child support services, the Farmington child support office works hard to ensure that their 4,100 parents get financial support from both parents. Statewide, 38,000 cases have court orders established, or 64.2 percent of all cases.

“The work being done by staff in Farmington is absolutely phenomenal and record-breaking,” said Cathi Valdes, acting CSED. “I also want to thank the Farmington family law court system for being very aggressive when it comes to child support court orders.”

Overall, every state child support office has improved in this important area – five years ago, only 28 percent of parents had court-ordered child support obligations in place. The goal for every office is 100 percent of non-custodial parents with court-ordered child support, however, the biggest hurdle for child support staff in getting court orders is locating absent parents and then establishing paternity.

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