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Human Services Department Reminds Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents to Update Changes in Income

Loss of Job Could Lead to a Modification in Court-Ordered Child Support

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The New Mexico Human Services Department’s Child Support Enforcement Division is reminding parents with state child support cases that it is important to report a large change in income as this could lead to a modification in court ordered child support.

“If a parent’s income changes drastically due to the recession, it is important to notify the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) to determine if the change is significant enough to warrant a modification in the court-ordered child support,” said Charissa Saavedra, Director of the CSED. “It is important that child support obligations are in an amount based on the NM Child Support Guidelines so that parents are able to pay their child support on a regular basis,” added Saavedra.

It is also important that parents understand that if a court has previously entered an order for child support, the only way to adjust that obligation is through a modified court order. A private agreement entered into by the parties without the approval of a district court judge may not be legally binding in the event the parties later return to court.

The CSED has seen a six percent increase in the number of new child support cases opened over the past year for a total of 58,000. The majority of the new cases are families who recently began participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which has grown by 15.2 percent in the past year to 15,821.

Every single-parent TANF case is referred to the CSED to ensure child support is being collected. If a court order for child support does not exist, steps are taken to begin the process of establishing one.

Parents having questions about their child support and a possible modification of their court order are encouraged to call the Child Support Customer Service Center at 1-800-288-7207.

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