



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **GOVERNOR SUSANA MARTINEZ ANNOUNCES NEW CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

**SANTA FE** – In an effort to crack down on unpaid child support, Governor Susana Martinez and Human Services Secretary Sidonie Squier announced a new Child Support Enforcement Bench Warrant Program that will be rolled out in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia Counties. These three counties represent more than 36.9% of the statewide caseload for the Human Services Department's Child Support Enforcement Division. The cases included in this project have a combined total of more than \$3.156 million in outstanding child support arrears and outstanding bench warrants with a cumulative bond amount of \$228,000. The program has earned the support of law enforcement agencies that are responsible for tracking down violators and holding them accountable.

A bench warrant amnesty period will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21st and continue until the close of business on Thursday, July 28th. During this weeklong amnesty period, anyone having an active bench warrant for failure to appear to pay child support can visit, without fear of being arrested, the Albuquerque South, Rio Rancho, or Los Lunas Child Support Enforcement Division field offices to pay the bond amount. The CSED offices will accept payments in the form of cash, cashier's check, or money order. Upon full payment of the bond, an order cancelling the bench warrant will be filed with the district court. If an individual is unable to pay the full amount of the bond set by the court, a negotiated, reduced bond payment or payment plan toward the amount of past due child support may be worked out, with the consent of the parent to whom the support obligation is owed. Ultimately, the Martinez administration hopes to make the program a statewide effort.

A list of all non-custodial parents having outstanding bench warrants issued by the Bernalillo County District Court, Sandoval County District Court, or Valencia County District Court for unpaid child support obligations will be posted on the Human Services Department website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/> and will be updated as the program progresses.

"The payment of child support helps to alleviate childhood poverty across New Mexico," said Governor Martinez. "This is an innovative program that will help bring in payments from non-custodial parents who, for whatever reason, have failed to stay current with their child support responsibilities. For those who have outstanding bench warrants, we are giving them one opportunity to fulfill their obligation before we work with our law enforcement partners to hold them accountable."

"Our Child Support Enforcement Division will be working closely with law enforcement and the judiciary to ensure that these bench warrants are cleared up and that these non-custodial parents meet their child

support obligations," said Secretary Squier. "We must do all that we can to address the problem of unpaid child support in our state, and this innovative effort is a good step."

On Friday, July 29th, the Child Support Enforcement Division will release a list to supporting law enforcement agencies of all individuals who have not resolved their bench warrants with CSED. Law enforcement will then conduct a warrant sweep in an effort to locate and take into custody those individuals who have not taken advantage of the amnesty program.

"The Sandoval County Sheriff's Office is committed to working with the Martinez administration to carry out Child Support Warrant Sweeps throughout Sandoval County and the entire state. We will continue to pursue outstanding warrants and encourage our citizens to call us with any information regarding these absconders," said Sandoval County Sheriff Doug Wood.

"APD is happy to partner with Governor Susana Martinez and the NM Human Services Department on the Child Support Enforcement Bench Warrant Program. APD will assist in holding these violators accountable for their lack of responsibility and for violating court orders," said Raymond D. Schultz, APD Chief of Police.

Individuals having questions may contact CSED toll free at: (800) 288-7207 in-state or (800) 585-7631 out-of-state.

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