



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Susana Martinez
Governor

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**Governor Susana Martinez Announces Child Support Bench
Warrant Round Up**

*Bench Warrant Round Up Will Follow Amnesty Period to Encourage Non-Custodial
Parents to Pay Child Support*

Santa Fe — For the third year in a row, Governor Martinez announces a two-part crack-down on non-custodial parents who aren't paying child support. The child support bench warrant operation starts August 4 and continues through the end of August.

From August 4 to August 29, non-custodial parents with an outstanding bench warrant due to unpaid child support obligations may visit one of the 14 child support offices across the state, pay the full amount of the bond, and get the warrant quashed or cancelled without fear of arrest. During the final week of August, New Mexico State Police (NMSP) and local law enforcement partners, will begin the round up portion of the Bench Warrant Program, where non-custodial parents face arrest.

If an individual is unable to pay the full amount of the bond set by the court, a reduced bond payment or payment plan toward the amount of past due child support may be negotiated, with the consent of the parent to whom the support obligation is owed and the approval of the court that issued the warrant. Non-custodial parents with a written job offer may also request to negotiate a lower bond payment with wage withholding payments.

"You have to contribute to the upbringing of your children," said Governor Martinez.

"Consistent child support payments are critical to helping kids and their families achieve economic stability, and New Mexico is committed to providing as many tools as possible to help parents support their children emotionally and financially."

The child support program works to ensure that non-custodial parents are fulfilling their obligations to their children and custodial parents. During Fiscal Year 2014, the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) set yet another record in child support collections with a total of \$137.1 million collected. Each of the past three fiscal years, New Mexico has broken state records for child support collections, with CSED collecting \$132.2 million in FY 2013 and \$129.6 million in FY 2012. Thanks to innovative programs like Bench Warrant Amnesty, New Mexico was [recognized by the National Child Support Enforcement Association](#) in 2012 as the nation's most improved.

A list of all non-custodial parents having outstanding bench warrants issued throughout the state is posted on the HSD website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/bench-warrant-program.aspx> and will be kept up-to-date throughout the program. There are approximately 600 bench warrants issued by New Mexico Courts related to child support cases.

"We look forward to assisting the Human Services Department again this year and partnering with other law enforcement agencies to round up those who failed to take advantage of the Bench Warrant Amnesty period," said Department of Public Safety Secretary Gregory J. Fouratt.

Individuals having questions about any of the Child Support Awareness Month activities may contact CSED toll free at: (800) 288-7207 in-state or (800) 585-7631 out-of-state.

Governor Martinez proclaimed August 2014 Child Support Awareness Month to salute all New Mexico parents who support their children, and encourage all parents to assume responsibility for improving the economic and social well-being of their children. The Governor's proclamation declaring Child Support Awareness Month [may be read here](#).

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