

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2016

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DES Child Support Services Division Conducting Statewide Phone-A-Thon

Statewide effort to advocate for children

PHOENIX – In an effort to improve the economic well-being of Arizona’s children, the Department of Economic Security’s Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) will sponsor a Statewide Phone-A-Thon event today between 10:00am and 3:00pm. The purpose of this event is to collect funds for children and families from those who have not made a child support payment for three months or more.

“Children are our most precious and treasured souls,” said Director Timothy Jeffries. “Arizona’s future depends upon our care and love for our children and families. Regardless of the circumstance, parents have a great responsibility to care for their children, and DES wants to help and support them in this mission. It is this Department’s sincere desire to improve the stability and well-being of parents, which will strengthen the economic well-being of their children.”

“The DES Child Support Division exists not only to ensure children are getting the financial support they need, but also to assist the family as a whole,” said DCSS Assistant Director Gerald Richard. “We’re not simply a collection agency. We are proud to offer a more well-rounded approach to supporting our fellow citizens. Serving the needs of the family becomes a win-win for all.”

DES is requesting anyone wishing to make a child support payment call one of the numbers listed below. DCSS colleagues will contact non-custodial parents (NCP) who have not made a payment for three months or more, but the phone lines will be open to anyone wishing to voluntarily make a payment.

Calls can be made using any of the three options listed below:

- Automated Payment Gateway: 1-866-562-0140
- Local Customer Service: (602) 252-4045
- Statewide Toll-Free: 1-800-882-4151

Previously known as Child Support *Enforcement*, the Division of Child Support *Services* has taken a more holistic approach by working with other areas in DES such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Cash Assistance, Vocational Rehabilitation and jobs and child care programs to ensure custodial and non-custodial parents have the support needed to take steps towards their well-being and self-sufficiency. Discounts for those who obtain their diploma or GED exist, as well as other programs like financial aid courses to better assist families. In May, DCSS collected more than \$32 million dollars in child support.

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The Arizona Department of Economic Security makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.

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