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Arizona Agencies Partner to Assist Incarcerated Parents with Child Support Obligations

Child support video to play on inmate TV

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security (DES), in cooperation with the Department of Corrections (ADC), worked together to produce a video about child support rights and responsibilities that will play on inmate television available in Arizona correctional facilities housing state prisoners. Each facility provides inmates with an in-house television channel featuring relevant programming and educational content.

“Unfortunately, children are most often casualties of adult circumstances,” said Director Tim Jeffries. “Children of incarcerated adults do suffer in many ways, including monetarily. Whatever the circumstance, parents have an obligation and a responsibility to care for their children and DES can help. I’d like to thank Director Ryan and his staff for successful collaboration and outreach to individuals who may be having trouble meeting their financial obligations because of incarceration.”

“Fulfilling one’s individual responsibilities and legal obligations is a key step toward successful reentry,” said ADC Director Charles Ryan. “The Arizona Department of Corrections is pleased to partner with DES to promote this important information to the state inmate population.”

The information presented in the video answers basic child support case questions, but also focuses on the individual as part of a family who has an obligation, no matter what role they play in the family structure. The video also informs newly-incarcerated inmates to notify the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) of their incarceration as soon as possible, and explains how they might be eligible for payment modification, if they meet certain requirements.

Parents who are incarcerated are still obligated to pay child support based on their financial resources and income while in prison. The video was created in an effort to inform inmates of their rights and obligations as incarcerated, non-custodial parents. Inmate prison accounts are funded by third parties, usually family members or friends, and by prison job wages.

There are approximately 6,000 open cases in Arizona in which the non-custodial parent is incarcerated in either a city, county, state or federal facility. DCSS plans to approach county and federal officials for a possible partnership with this program.

The video can be viewed in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and is also available via closed captioning.

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