



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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# News Release

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## DES to Administer Child Support Services on Behalf of Navajo County

**PHOENIX** – The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today it will administer the Navajo County Child Support Program beginning July 1, 2017. The Navajo County Board of Supervisors recently voted to end the program currently being operated by the Navajo County Attorney’s Office.

“Families in Navajo County will not see a disruption in service during this transition,” said DES Interim Director Henry Darwin. “We serve all Arizona citizens in the most effective way possible, and welcome the opportunity to provide child support services to Navajo County.”

The Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) is already working to make this transition as smooth as possible. Navajo County has a caseload of more than 3,500 and DCSS is working to provide staff and support to integrate these cases into the state system, which currently handles 168,722 cases. Once this transition is complete, DCSS will be operating child support programs in all of Arizona’s fifteen counties, with the exception of Gila. The Navajo Nation administers its own program.

According to the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, the decision to end the Child Support Program, and close the county’s Juvenile Detention Center was budgetary, and is expected to save the county \$800,000 a year. The Navajo County staff working on child support cases will be given preference to re-apply for jobs within DCSS.

Under Arizona law, either the Attorney General or the County Attorney on behalf of the State, is allowed to initiate an action or intervene in an action to establish, modify or enforce an order of child support. This function will now be pursued by the Attorney General’s Office through DES.

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