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## Department of Child Support Services



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## Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services

### PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 29, 2013**

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### August is Child Support Awareness Month

MODESTO - During Child Support Awareness Month in August, the Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services would like to remind parents that providing child support is one of the many ways they demonstrate love for their children. The Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services has dedicated staff to assist parents in finding solutions to child support matters.

The California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is commemorating the month by recognizing California's local child support agencies in counties across the state, as well as the courts that collectively provide the services necessary to help children get the financial and medical support they are entitled to in a fair and consistent manner statewide.

“Our mission is to collect money owed to families so that children have the security and support they need, but we recognize that some parents face challenges to making their child support payments,” said Kathleen Hrepich, Interim Director of State DCSS.

Tamara Thomas, Director for the Stanislaus County local child support agency agrees. “The child support staff and I feel very strongly in Federal Commissioner Vicki Turetsky's outreach strategies designed to remove barriers for parents paying support. These strategies when focused on can lead to family self-sufficiency. Stanislaus County is fortunate to have received grant funding making it possible to provide fatherhood and parenting training, domestic violence training, and employment opportunities in an effort to do the work of removing barriers. Many families need our services but are unaware of the child support program and what can be provided.”

During the month of August, parents who are past due on their child support payments are encouraged to drop by their local child support agency to make a payment, modify their child support order, and/or find out whether they qualify for the

arrears forgiveness program. Those parents who have had their California Driver License suspended can contact the office for an opportunity to obtain a release of that suspension.

Child support services are available to the public through a network of 51 county and regional child support agencies and the child support program serves 1.4 million children and their families. The California Department of Child Support Services, together with the local child support agencies, collected a combined \$2.3 billion in distributed collections during the past federal fiscal year ending in September 2012. That is a \$48 million increase over the previous federal fiscal year. Of that, \$1.8 billion was distributed directly to families, and \$500 million was distributed to the state and federal governments for recoupment of public assistance and foster care expenses. County and state child support professionals promote parental responsibility and encourage participation from both parents so that children receive the emotional and financial support they need.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the Stanislaus County local child support agency was named the most improved large county when it comes to overall performance based on five Federal Performance Measures. "The Department of Child Support Services can help parents struggling in this economy to responsibly meet their court ordered child support. The success of the department moving its statewide ranking from 25th to 11th when compared with all other counties can be attributed to the hard working staff of the department partnering with members of the community to fulfill those obligations," stated Stanislaus County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Vito Chiesa.

Parents can make payments online at [www.childsup.ca.gov/payments](http://www.childsup.ca.gov/payments). Parents also have online access to Customer Connect, a secure self-service website at [www.childsup-connect.ca.gov](http://www.childsup-connect.ca.gov). This website is available 24-hours a day to access case information, view payment history and account balances, and to update contact information.

Parents who want more information about our services are welcome to visit our website at [www.stancodcss.org](http://www.stancodcss.org), call us at 866-901-3212, or drop by our office from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday to talk to a child support professional. Our office is located at 251 E. Hackett Road, Modesto.