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Press Release



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR DAVIS PROCLAIMS CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH 08/01/2003

SACRAMENTO

Governor Gray Davis today proclaimed August as Child Support Awareness Month in recognition of parents who live apart but still provide emotional and financial support to their children. This year's theme is "Supporting California's Children."

"Every child needs the confidence of knowing that both parents support them emotionally and financially, even when the parents do not live in the same home," Gov. Davis said.

In 2000, Governor Davis signed landmark legislation restructuring the child support program in California. It created the only government organization in the country solely dedicated to supporting and protecting children and families that rely on child support.

Today, California's child support program is the largest in the nation, serving more than two million children and collecting more than \$2.3 billion each year.

"Improved child support services and health care for children are among the top priorities of this Administration," said Curtis Child, Director of California's first State Department of Child Support Services. "The department was created for the purpose of improving the lives of children through better delivery of the state's child support services. We are extremely proud of our success in meeting that goal."

Since it was created in January 2000, the California Department of Child Support Services has completed a major restructuring of the child support program and implemented new services including the Ombudsperson Program, a Complaint Resolution Process, and State Administrative Hearings that assists custodial and non-custodial parents throughout the state. In addition, the Child Support Services Program promotes uniformity and consistency of services and regulations statewide and has implemented a Quality Assurance and Program Improvement Program (QAPI).

The California Department of Child Support Services will mark "Child Support Awareness Month" with a series of statewide public activities to educate the public on how child support enhances the overall well-being of children. Visit www.childsup.cahnet.gov for Child Support Awareness Month activities by county.

See attached proclamation.

[Proclamation for Child Support Awareness Month](#)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PROCLAMATION
by the
Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS, California's children need the emotional and financial support of both parents, even when one parent is absent from the home; and

WHEREAS, the support of parents, extended families, and the community helps children grow into healthy, productive adults; and

WHEREAS, an effective child support program can help parents meet their mutual responsibilities for their children; and

WHEREAS, California is committed to promoting the health and well-being of all of its children by ensuring that absentee parents pay child support on a regular and timely basis; and

WHEREAS, California leads the nation in collecting child support, collecting more than \$2 billion in child support payments each year for the last three years; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Child Support Services is the recipient of the 2003 National Child Support Enforcement Association's "Most Improved Program" award, which recognizes exceptional improvement in program performance, data reliability, customer service, and quality assurance; and

WHEREAS, "Child Support Awareness Month" celebrates California's nationally recognized achievements in child support services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GRAY DAVIS, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim August 2003 as "Child Support Awareness Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 23rd day of July 2003.



Gray Davis
Governor of California

ATTEST:

Kevin Shelley
Secretary of State