



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Child Support Agency Offers State Debt Reduction Program through Sept. 2015

Richmond, VA (Aug. 11, 2015)-- In recognition of Child Support Awareness Month in Virginia, from August through September 2015, the Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) has implemented a special initiative to help some of Virginia's most vulnerable families as they prepare for the upcoming school year. Historically, DCSE receives an increased volume of calls from custodial parents requesting help with collecting child support at this time of year, to help purchase clothes and school supplies for their children.

Recent legislation provides DCSE with the authority to compromise on child support debt owed to the Commonwealth based on a noncustodial parent's ability to pay.

Noncustodial parents eligible for this program are those who owe the state for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reimbursement, paid for the benefit of their children, and who earn less than \$31,860 per year. There are 2 ways for these parents to reduce their state debt:

1. For every \$1 noncustodial parents pay above their current support obligation, DCSE will reduce their state debt by an extra \$1.
2. Noncustodial parents who visit any of DCSE's district offices and make a lump sum payment toward their arrears will receive a 5% reduction in their state debt. These parents will also meet with a child support specialist to review their financial situation and determine if any of DCSE's Family Engagement Programs would be suitable. If so, specialists will connect parents with resources such as job and fatherhood training programs, education programs, residential assistance programs, and many others.

Craig Burshem, Deputy Commissioner for Child Support, states, "We hope the state debt reduction initiative will get extra funds to families when they need it most and help noncustodial parents resume making regular child support payments. DCSE's goal is to establish relationships with these parents so that children and families ultimately benefit."

For more information about these opportunities, contact the DCSE Customer Call Center toll-free at (800) 468-8894 and ask to speak to your case manager.

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