



**Ted Strickland**, Governor  
**J. Tracy Robinson**, Director

January 15, 2009

Director Terry Collins  
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
770 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43222

Director Doug Lumpkin  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
30 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Child Support Guidelines Recommendations

Dear Directors Collins and Lumpkin:

We are writing to express our complete support of the recommendations which the collaborative comprised of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), Department of Job and Family services (JFS), Office of Child Support (OCS) and the Ohio CSEA Directors Association (OCDA) proposed to remove barriers to the payment of child support.

Given our work serving fathers, many of whom are subject to child support orders, we heartily endorse the following recommendations:

- Share child support information with other programs and agencies including, but not limited to, community corrections, adult parole authority and state prisons.
- Draft and promote legislation adopting a statewide approach to the compromise of arrears (for qualifying obligors, not just those formerly incarcerated) that are assigned and unassigned in order to leverage debt and increase collections for children.
- Establish liaisons between DRC, JFS, OCS, and OCDA to facilitate the continuous exchange of information.
- Improve parental understanding of child support services by soliciting information from incarcerated mothers and fathers with child support obligations.

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood believes that the aforementioned recommendations will change the culture and paradigm of the child support system in a way consistent with the "Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Strickland/Fisher transition agency Review Committee report (2007) by:

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1. Creating and adopting policies and procedures that distinguish between obligors who cannot pay, as opposed to those who refuse to pay;
2. Pursuing statutory, regulatory and procedural changes that enable more child support matters to be handled administratively rather than through the courts;
3. replicating programs currently in place in other counties that divert delinquent obligors to job counseling as opposed to jail;
4. Better linking child support agencies with other entities, i.e. job placement agencies; and
5. Creating ongoing communication networks in all agencies serving non-custodial fathers in order to develop more cohesive interaction among agencies and improved case management for non-custodial parents who are struggling with child support, custody and visitation issues.

In short, these recommendations will assist and encourage the development of a child support system that is more equitable, rational, comprehensive, navigable and affordable.

We thank you for your time and attention to the collaborative's proposals which we strongly believe will help remove barriers to the payment of child support which will greatly benefit children and families. We stand ready to assist in lobbying for and implementing the recommendations.

Sincerely,



Peter Lawson Jones  
Chairman  
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood



J. Tracy Robinson  
Executive Director  
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood