

# FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association

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No. 1

## IFSEA Scholarship recipients find Conference experience worthwhile

This year the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association (IFSEA) sponsored two Scholarship winners: Vera Mount, an FSS from Springfield, and Maria Slattery, an Accountant from Chicago's CAMU. These employees were the first scholarship winners sponsored by IFSEA, which awarded them with membership for the year in IFSEA, payment for all conference registration fees, and lodging for the two nights of the conference. The following is an account of their experiences at the 2005 Conference held in Fairview Heights on 10/16-10/18/2005.

### Vera Mount's Overview

The first breakout session I attended was "ARDC/Third Party Issues." In his presentation, Mr. Gary Rappaport, who is Sr. Counsel and litigation attorney in Springfield, gave synopses of the 2004 Annual Report, the Rules Governing the Legal Profession and Judiciary in Illinois, and the Ethical Duties to Third Parties. As a Family Support Specialist for DCSE, I chose to attend this session to gain a better understanding of the direct level of communication and responsibility the legal representatives have to the custodial and/or non-custodial parents for whom the Department has submitted petitions for legal actions. The concerns expressed by the legal representatives about potential conflicts of interest as well as their accountability to uphold written Rules of Ethics emphasized why they often cannot confer with or disclose information to the Petitioner or Respondent in the case. I gained much clearer perspective of the Department's role as "Client" in our cases after attending this session.

### Maria Slattery's Overview

I appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference for a number of reasons. First, it gave me an opportunity to see how every aspect of our work relates with the efforts of other agencies. It gave me a greater appreciation of the functions performed not only by the staff of HFS, but also by the staff members of other related organizations. I believe that this is an invaluable insight that would be beneficial to all employees of HFS. Second, it gave me an opportunity to personally

meet some of our partners and to be able to discuss in detail the work that they perform for our organization. For this reason, I believe that the social hours, which were part of the conference, are just as valuable as the conference sessions. It was during these times I found that I had an opportunity to meet some of our partners and discuss the various aspects of their organizations including their accomplishments and their future goals. Another very helpful part of the conference was the opportunity to view the exhibit booths that were available during the conference. It was at this time that conference attendees had an opportunity to meet our partners and to gather detailed information about the roles that our partners such as PSI, Tier Technologies and LabCorp perform for our organization. At these exhibit booths, I was able to collect a library of information regarding these organizations that I will not only be able to refer to but will be able to make a permanent part of my child support library.

Additionally, the KidCare program representative provided some information at the exhibit that I found helpful not only to myself but to others I come into contact with on a day-to-day basis. I know that the exhibit booths required a lot of hard work on the behalf of the exhibitors, but I feel that it was well worth the effort expended.

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# **FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM**

is the official newsletter of the

## **ILLINOIS FAMILY SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION**

1917 South Whittier  
Springfield, IL 62704

Published and distributed free to members of the Association.

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**2005 - 2006**

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Another session I attended was “Legal Basics for Non-Lawyers.” The two attorneys who presented this workshop were not only well versed with the subject matter, but were also able to explain the process to those who had little or no understanding of it. In addition, the seminar also provided some valuable information to those who had a good overall view of the process. I believe that the insight provided by Ms. Curran and Ms. Conroy gave the workshop participants an inside view of the process and some of the pitfalls that can be avoided.

The Collection and Enforcement Methods workshop moderated by Mary Morrow was a good opportunity for the participants to ask questions regarding this important process. Based upon the information learned during the seminar, there is a wide range of enforcement options available to the agency that may be unfamiliar to those who are not close to the process. Again, this seminar provided information that can be useful to share with those who use our services.

I also found the information provided in the conference binders (thanks to Maximus!) to be very useful regarding the recent child support court cases. Those who attended the seminar and have the information have the opportunity to review this information and become up to date on the court decisions that affect our work on a day-to-day basis. I think that a summary of these cases would be a good source of information to be provided on the Infonet database. I believe that it would be of much interest to the other HFS employees.

### **Vera and Maria’s Shared Experience**

Of particular interest to both of us was the Judge’s Panel presented by the Honorable Judge Janet Heflin on the second day of the conference. This session consisted of various scenarios and sets of facts presented to Judge Heflin. These scenarios were truly representative of circumstances in cases that DCSE staff are involved with everyday. The Judge gave us her insight on each case and told how she would rule on the case and explained the reason behind her decision. Even when her decision was met with challenges from some of the legal representatives, it was evident that her decisions were based first and foremost with what was in the best interest of the child and through much wisdom and objectivity. For those of us who do not experience being in the courtroom during the normal course of our job, it was very interesting and enlightening to hear how she arrived at her conclusions.

### **Vera’s Closing Comments**

While these conferences are held each year to benefit staff involved in child support and for the legal associates who move our cases forward, the most positive impression that I took from this experience in attending the 2005 IFSEA conference was of the commitment by all parties to keep the focus on what is in the best interest of the child. As a child raised by a single parent depending on (and unfortunately, not receiving) child support and later as a single parent with a child support order, this commitment remains a strong personal motivator to learn as much as I can from all who are connected to this effort. I feel extremely grateful and honored to have been one of the two selected for the first scholarship to attend this conference, and would be very happy to help on the steering committee for future conferences.

### **Maria’s Closing Comments**

I was glad to learn that the 2006 IFSEA conference will be held in Chicago next year, as it will then be possible for more of my co-workers to attend. I appreciated the chance to attend the conference this year, and I look forward to the opportunity to volunteer for next year’s conference.



*From HFS...*

## *... ILLINOIS IV-D UPDATE*

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By Pamela Compton

With the holiday season just behind us, I wanted to send my warmest greetings to each of you and wish you a safe and happy New Year.

I'm happy to report that at the end of the last state fiscal year, the IV-D program had record-breaking collections of over \$1 billion dollars. We are already ahead of the mark for this fiscal year, having collected more than \$450 million between July 1 and the end of November 2005. In October, 60.42% of IV-D cases had orders, an increase of 8.48% in twelve months. All 102 counties exceeded 50% of cases with orders - a remarkable achievement. During the same period, \$101,811,861 was collected through special enforcement remedies, an increase of 9%.

These performance improvements, and the thoughtful work that went into our Business Processing Re-engineering effort, have led to recognition by both the OCSE and the Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence. These awards demonstrate that a rigorous external assessment of our efforts confirm the actual progress we have made. I was pleased and honored to accept these awards on behalf of Healthcare and Family Services and the Division of Child Support Enforcement, and to have the opportunity to showcase our successes.

During this year we also had a long-awaited and welcome change of our agency name. After many years of retaining an agency name "left over" from the human services reorganization of the mid to late 1990s, we finally received a name that fits our mission - Healthcare and Family Services.

In February 2005, Governor Blagojevich announced HFS-DCSE's New Hire Initiative in the State of the State address. I'm proud to report much progress has been made. Comparison of January 2004 – November 2004 New Hire collections with the same period in 2005 show a nearly 57% increase in New Hire collections, from \$16.1 million to \$25 million. As of December 27, 13,489 formerly non-compliant employers have begun submitting New Hire records. 284,722 records have been received from these employers. This fall, HFS and IDHS jointly launched a new website that allows employers to report new hires on-line. Since the website was launched, 2,340 employers have registered and have reported a total of 12,536 new hire records on-line.

We rolled out a new option for custodial parents to receive their payments electronically, even if they do not have a bank account. More than 13,000 custodial parents have already applied for the Eppicard stored value card.

We also entered into a new collaboration with a sister state. Illinois and Iowa's joint interstate case processing office in Rock Island is only the 2nd of its kind in the nation.

There have been several heart-warming success stories in 2005. In June, DCSE collected \$10,000 for a custodial parent who had been recently diagnosed with a degenerative

disease. The combination of her years-long struggle to collect child support and the onset of her illness had led her to almost give up hope. Since the original \$10,000 collection due to denial of the NCP's passport, another \$5,000 collection and 3 \$750 regular collections have arrived. When DCSE staff informed the custodial parent of the first collection, she was nearly beyond words. In a note to DCSE staff, the custodial parent thanked us for our "relentless and tireless efforts" on her behalf and the behalf of her children. Just today I heard that a UIB collection had been made for a custodial parent who had recently been featured in a newspaper article. The CP tragically lost a child last year and now a second child has a serious health issue. In the article, the CP mentioned that she was divorced but received no support for her children from her former husband. Due to the efforts of a DCSE staffer, the custodial parent applied for IV-D services, and several DCSE staff collaborated to expedite the case.

These are only two examples of the many successes DCSE has accomplished during the year. These two individual stories demonstrate the very real difference we all make in the lives of our families. While we often focus on what needs to be done, and on the improvements we are still undertaking, it is good to also take a moment to celebrate our successes and achievements. For more than 600,000 families, the IV-D program is the means to economic security. We can take pride in the service we provide, even while we strive to provide better service in the future.

I'm sure 2006 will bring its own challenges and opportunities, and we in DCSE look forward to continuing our journey to excellence.

**ILLINOIS FAMILY SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION  
Application for Membership / Address Correction**

Please:  accept my application for membership in IFSEA.  correct my address as noted below.

- Regular membership - please enclose \$20.00 annual dues.
- Subscription membership - please enclose \$20.00 annual fee.
- Affiliate membership - (dues to be determined by Directors upon acceptance).

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Office \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send Forum to E-Mail Address

Is this a  New Application  Renewal  Address Correction ONLY?  
 Please return with dues to: IFSEA, 1917 South Whittier Ave, Springfield, IL 62704  
**(FEIN: 37-1274237)**

(1/05)

## **Gov. Blagojevich announces significant jump in child support collections in 2005**

*Governor's initiative has led to a nearly 57 percent increase in New Hire collections; 10 percent increase in overall collections*

Governor's Office Press Release

CHICAGO – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced that child support collections resulting from state-gathered employment records have increased by nearly 57 percent in the last year as a result of his New Hire Initiative, and child support collections overall have grown by just over 10 percent. Over the past two years, Gov. Blagojevich has launched a series of new child support initiatives that have resulted in record-breaking collections that will help provide 386,000 Illinois parents with the money they need to care for their children.

“Raising a child takes love, patience, understanding – and money. Every year, it gets more expensive to provide for a child and every year even more parents are raising their children alone,” said Gov. Blagojevich. “After years of problems and unacceptable results in the state’s child support collection efforts, we have taken major steps during the past two and a half years to turn the system around, and our efforts are paying off. We are continuing to find new, innovative ways to enforce child support law and as a result, more children are getting the financial support they deserve.”

The Governor’s New Hire Initiative makes it easier for employers to comply with the Illinois Department of Employment Security’s New Hire Directory by establishing a toll-free hotline, easy-to-understand marketing materials and onsite training at employer sites and association meetings that assisted in the employer education process. New Hire collections have increased by nearly 57 percent compared to 2004. In 2004, New Hire collections reached just over \$16.1 million, and in 2005 New Hire collections jumped to over \$25 million. In 2004, monthly New Hire average collections were \$1.5 million and in 2005 the monthly average rose to \$2.3 million.

Child support collections from the state overall have grown by just over 10 percent to over \$1.011 billion compared to 2004 collections that totaled \$918.8 million. Collections in 2005 surpassed the national average by 3% and more than \$100 million of the \$1 billion collected went to parents whose child support was severely overdue.

“Child support enforcement in Illinois has been completely transformed under this Administration,” said Barry Maram, Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (formerly known as Public Aid). “As a result, the families we serve are receiving the payments their children deserve regularly and delinquent parents are being held accountable.”

In the mid-1990s, the Illinois Department of Public Aid’s Child Support Enforcement Division’s performance fell steeply, causing hardship for thousands of Illinois parents. In fact, in 2000, Illinois faced the serious threat of federal penalties for poor child support enforcement. Since Governor Blagojevich was elected in 2002, his Administration has worked to turn Illinois’ record around to help struggling single parents meet their families’ needs.

Child support is the second largest income source for low-income families who qualify for the program. In 2003, more than 846,735 children in Illinois were owed child support payments totaling about \$3 billion, with a collection rate of 28 percent. Today, the collection rate is 32 percent, with 741,787 children’s support being enforced by HFS.

To help more working parents provide for their children, Governor Blagojevich launched a number of additional new programs that led to this year’s record-breaking collections including:

- The Illinois/Iowa Joint Child Support Enforcement Office. In October 2005, Governor Blagojevich announced that Illinois joined forces with the state of Iowa to increase enforcement of child support laws through the opening of a new, jointly staffed child support enforcement office in Rock Island, IL. This is the second interstate child support office in the country. Located close to the state line, the new facility will have one full time employee from each state that will work together to ensure improved interstate

information sharing, faster collection of court-ordered child support and more efficient enforcement of child support laws.

- The Deadbeat Parents Website. In November 2003, Governor Blagojevich launched the Deadbeat Parents Website that identified parents who owe more than \$5,000 in child support payments, resulting in the collection of nearly \$180,000 in back payments in the first two years of operation [www.ilchildsupport.com/deadbeats](http://www.ilchildsupport.com/deadbeats). In addition, the department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) received federal certification of the Key Information Delivery System (KIDS), the main computer for the child support process.

- The Sheridan Rehabilitation Project. The Sheridan Rehabilitation Project within the Illinois Department of Corrections helps ex-offenders access jobs and training programs so that they can meet their child support obligations. According to the Center for Law and Social Policy, roughly one-quarter of U.S. inmates have open child support cases. Incarcerated non-custodial parents owe in the range of \$225 to \$313 per month in child support. On average, parents owe more than \$10,000 in arrears when they got to prison and leave prison owing \$23,000 or more.

In addition, the Governor signed five pieces of Child Support legislation last summer.

- Simplified Child Support Interest Calculations. Senate Bill 452, starting January 1, 2006, will help Illinois families receiving child support get their share of interest payments before the state receives any interest payments as a result of a new law simplifying the calculation and distribution of interest from unpaid child support. Prior to this new law, it was unclear how interest should be distributed to families receiving child support in Illinois. The simplifications will result in more money going to Illinois families receiving child support. Additionally, the process is simpler and easier for both parents to understand.

- Making the child support process more efficient. House Bill 785 makes child support collection more efficient by updating the process to reflect current practices. The law is effective January 1, 2006.

- Adding interest to unpaid alimony. Senate Bill 95, an initiative of the Illinois State Bar Association, provides that any new or existing order including any unallocated maintenance obligation (alimony) shall accrue simple interest at the rate of 9 percent per annum, just as child support obligations. This law is effective January 1, 2006.

- Improving ability to legally serve notices on non-custodial parents. Senate Bill 955 improves the Department's ability to legally serve notices on non-custodial parents. This law went into effect in July.

- Making payments easier through currency exchanges. House Bill 783 allows a non-custodial parent to give certain information to a currency exchange so that their child support payments can be made there, giving the non-custodial parent more access to places where they can make payments. This law went into effect in July.

These initiatives and resulting success earned the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) an \$8 million federal bonus award for meeting federal child support indicators, the largest incentive ever received by Illinois under a performance based system.

### **Correction to "Interest Calculation Legislation"**

By Lawrence Nelson

Please note the following correction to the above article that appeared in the September 2005 IFSEA FORUM.

On page 28, the following was the last sentence in the paragraph that began with: "There is a monthly accounting cycle...":

"The exception would be payments from federal income tax refund intercepts, which can only be applied to support due as of the end of the preceding year."

It should be corrected as follows:

"The exception would be payments from federal income tax refund intercepts, which can only be applied to support due as indicated in the advance notice from the Department."

## **IFSEA President's Update**

By Christine Kovach

The 2005 IFSEA Training Conference in Fairview Heights provided a wonderful opportunity for the new and returning members of IFSEA to participate and network with professionals from throughout the State of Illinois and beyond. Many of the Board members received positive comments from the members regarding the conference facilities, food and conference topics. The Board of Directors is looking forward to the next conference in Chicago!

This year marked our first year to extend an invitation to some of our neighboring interstate workers to join us at the training conference. We were very pleased that the State of Iowa sent two participants to the conference. We look forward to continuing this important feature at future conferences.

Another highlight of this year's conference was the award of two scholarships. Our scholarship recipients were extremely grateful and pleased to have participated in the annual training conference. IFSEA is committed to offer the scholarships for future conferences. Please take a moment to read the recipients' essays contained in this issue of the Forum.

Shortly after the IFSEA Conference, the Board of Directors met to discuss various topics, including the Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill. On behalf of IFSEA, I sent a letter to each of Illinois' Senators and Representatives urging them to oppose any reduction of the funding of the child support enforcement program.

2006 brings us a new year with new challenges and goals. As child support professionals, we must continue to strive to maximize our resources and to rely on our partners and colleagues to achieve and improve child support enforcement for Illinois' children.

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

Next Year's IFSEA Conference will be held on October 15-17 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Chicago.

# Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association

## Financial Report

03/01/05 – 01/01/06

### Income:

Membership & Conf.	\$12,930.00
Vendors	7,327.50
Interest	467.27
	<hr/>
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$20,727.77</b>

### Assets:

Checking	\$15,208.08
Money Market	19,392.87
A/R	110.00
	<hr/>
<b>Net:</b>	<b>\$34,710.95</b>

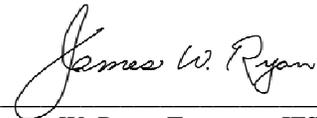
### Expenses:

Directors Lunch	\$ 429.04
4 Seasons Sheraton	12,295.38
Door Prizes	500.00
Scholarship Expenses for 2 persons	306.36
Hospitality Suite-Costs and Plaque	337.11
Post Office	181.76
Kinko's	241.77
Miscellaneous Expenses	604.37
Refund-Madison County	115.00
Web Site	299.70
2006 Site Deposit	1,000.00
	<hr/>
<b>Net Increase:</b>	<b>\$16,310.49</b>

### Net Assets:

02/28/05	\$30,227.18
01/01/06	34,710.95
	<hr/>
<b>Increase:</b>	<b>\$ 4,483.77</b>

Respectfully Submitted,



James W. Ryan, Treasurer, IFSEA

## Senate Passes Budget Reconciliation Bill; House Must OK Final Version

By the American Public Human Services Association

On December 21, the Senate passed the conference report for S. 1932, the Deficit Control Act of 2005, by a vote of 51-50, with Vice President Cheney casting the tie-breaking vote. The legislation makes major changes in a number of public human service programs, including Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child support, and child welfare. It does not reduce funding for the Food Stamp Program. Before the final Senate vote, the Senate parliamentarian agreed with a point of order raised by Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) calling for removal of several reports in the bill. The approved bill therefore now differs slightly from the House version, passed December 19, and now must go back to the House for another vote. The timing of the House vote was uncertain at press time; the House was scheduled to reconvene in a pro-forma session late on December 22, but a roll-call vote on the budget bill was considered likely and therefore probably could not occur until the House's next session in late January.

The bill reauthorizes TANF and applies work participation rates and work requirements to recipients in separate state programs. It also maintains separate two-parent work rates; maintains the work rate at 50 percent but revises the caseload credit to look back to fiscal year 2005 rather than FY 1995; and adds a new state penalty if states do not establish and maintain work verification procedures. The bill also increases childcare funding by \$1 billion and provides \$1 billion in new Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding for FY 2007. In child support, the bill institutes a new \$25 user fee; eliminates the ability of states to use child support incentive grant funds to match federal dollars; and includes a series of child support changes from House and Senate TANF proposals.

The bill cuts Medicaid by about \$4.8 billion over five years. The cuts include options for states to impose cost sharing and create flexible benefit packages, and includes restrictions on seniors who transfer their assets to qualify for Medicaid. There were no substantial changes to the language on Targeted Case Management (TCM) that concerned states, or to third-party liability; the TCM language would prohibit certain foster care services from being covered by Medicaid's TCM. The bill also includes provisions to modify the calculation of Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rates for states that were negatively affected. In child welfare, the conference report would eliminate Title IV-E administrative claims for most otherwise-federally eligible children in unlicensed foster homes. These claims are also eliminated for children in ineligible facilities such as detention centers, psychiatric and medical hospitals, and institutions with more than 25 beds, with certain exceptions. A new requirement is added to conduct foster care candidacy redeterminations every six months. The report also reverses the *Rosales v. Thompson* decision by limiting the determination of eligibility for IV-E foster care maintenance and adoption assistance. A link to the complete bill text is available on the House Rules Committee web site at <http://www.rules.house.gov/>.

Because of the uncertainty over the final House vote necessary to clear the bill, the Senate on December 21 passed a three-month TANF extension. The Senate accepted the House version of the extension, passed December 19 (the TANF and Child Care Continuation Act of 2005, H.R. 4635), by unanimous consent and without amendment. In addition to the TANF program, the legislation extends supplemental grants to states, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and child welfare waiver authority through March 31, 2006.

## Seeking Criminal Bond Money to be Applied to Child Support

By Ann Buche Conroy

Illinois statutes provide that money posted as security for bail in a criminal proceeding may be applied to monies owing in other cases of the same defendant under certain circumstances. Among these other cases is one for child support. 725 ILCS 5/110-7(f)

Interestingly, the statute differentiates between Cook County and the rest of the state, somewhat oddly:

“...Bail bond deposited by or on behalf of a defendant in one case may be used, in the court’s discretion, to satisfy financial obligations of that same defendant incurred in a different case due to a fine, court costs, restitution or fees of the defendant’s attorney of record. In counties with a population of 3,000,000 or more (read Cook County) the court shall not order bail bond deposited by or on behalf of a defendant in one case to be used to satisfy financial obligations of that same defendant in a different case until the bail bond is first used to satisfy court costs and attorneys’ fees in the case in which the bail bond has been deposited and any other child support obligations are satisfied. In counties with a population of less than 3,000,000 (read all the rest of us) the court shall not order bail bond deposited by or on behalf of a defendant in one case to be used to satisfy financial obligations of that same defendant in a different case until the bail bond is first used to satisfy court costs in the case in which the bail bond has been deposited.

At the request of the defendant the court may order such 90% of defendant’s bail deposit or whatever amount is repayable to defendant from such deposit, to be paid to defendant’s attorney of record.” 725 ILCS 5/110-7(f) (Parentheticals added)

The above appears to mean that in Cook County, court costs, attorney’s fees and child support must come before other financial obligations with respect to the application of the bail bond, whereas in the remainder of the state only court costs need be satisfied before the other obligations can be met with bail bond. My perception of this peculiarity is that some of this was put in later, and results in an awkward phrasing. Although prior renditions of the statute do not include child support, *per se*, in the listing, for example, this is not to say that child support could not have been used as another “obligation” of the same defendant.

No distribution of bail money can be made until the completion of the criminal case to which bail applies, of course, so it is important to contact the Assistant State’s Attorney or other prosecuting authority who deals with the criminal case, to let them know your interest and have them keep you apprised of dates when final decisions are likely in the criminal case. Petitions dealing with requests for bail bond can be filed at any time in the criminal case and a request made of the Judge to hold the matter until it is pertinent at the last date of disposition of the case.

Our practice is to file a courtesy copy of the pleading in the criminal matter with the Judge in the child support matter, also, so that everyone is aware of what is happening. Any bail money received is channeled through the State Disbursement Unit and applied to arrearages of child support. In theory, it is possible to apply bail money against current support, as this is an “obligation” under the law. The logistics of this are convoluted. We have not tried it in Lake

County. If anyone is successful at that, we would be interested in how you achieve that outcome. Even trying it unsuccessfully would give us pointers.

We always ask the court to waive court costs and fees so that the entire amount of bond is handed over for child support. Normally, our courts have complied, but they won't do it unless asked. Sometimes the defendant's attorney will agree to have the bond money applied, wholly or in part, to child support. This may depend, of course, on whether the attorney has been paid up front or knows that the client is good for the fee. Occasionally, the court will say all the bond goes to child support whether fees are owing to the defense attorney or not. I try to placate the defense bar by offering to split the bond where it appears that is the only source available for the attorney's fee.

The most basic problem I have run into in using this statute to obtain child support, is finding out who has posted bail bond in a criminal case. (Our information often comes from the custodial parent in our cases.) In counties with small populations, this is probably not much of a difficulty. In counties under 3,000,000, but large, the cooperation of the Sheriff's office, the Clerk of Court, and the Judges may be necessary to make available the lists of those who have posted bond. That list could be checked against Respondents in child support cases and Petitions filed where indicated. Because there are usually several court appearances in criminal matters, there is ample time to enter a pleading during the course of the action. There are sometimes reservations expressed as to the paying over of criminal bond to child support arrearages because someone other than the accused has paid the bond money. This can make it difficult to get a list of persons who have posted bond. However, the statute is clear and the bond slip states in plain language to the person signing that the money is at the court's discretion and might not be returned to them. Despite this, over the past year, we have collected about \$20,000 for child support arrearages by invoking this statute: money we would not have collected otherwise.

I include herewith a copy of our Petition. Any other requests of the court we have made orally.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
 )  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Ex Rel:

xxxxx )  
Petitioner )  
 V ) Gen No:  
xxxxx ) Gen No:  
Respondent )

PETITION TO TURNOVER RESPONDENT'S CRIMINAL BOND  
FOR CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGES.

Now comes the Petitioner, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, ex rel.: xxxx, by Michael J. Waller, State's Attorney of Lake County, and requests this Honorable Court to turn over the criminal bond posted by the Respondent to reduce his child support arrearages, according to 725 ILCS 5/1190-7(f). In support of said Petition, the Petitioner states as follows:

- I. On October 20, 1993, a Judgment for Dissolution was entered in case # requiring the Respondent to pay current child support in the amount of \$60.00 per bi-weekly, for support of the three minor children, (place names and dob of children)
- II. Since entry of that Order, Respondent has failed to make his child support payments in a timely manner, and accrued an arrearage therein in the amount of \$ xxxxx as of (date of Petition);
- III. XXXXX is the defendant in pending criminal matters, i.e., criminal case # xxxx, in the Lake County Courts;
- IV. XXXX has posted bond money in the criminal matters identified above. He has posted a bond of \$10,000.00.

**WHEREFORE, the Petitioner prays that this Honorable Court orders:**

- A. That this Honorable Court turn over that portion remaining of the \$10,000.00 bond that the Respondent posted in his criminal matters to the Lake County Clerk for payment on child support arrearages
- B. That this Honorable Court waive court fees for criminal case # 04 CF 4629.

C. For such other relief as the Court deems just and reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant State's Attorney

MICHAEL J. WALLER  
STATE'S ATTORNEY OF LAKE COUNTY  
Child Support Division  
33 North County Street  
Suite 205  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
847-360-6538

Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association Board of Directors announces the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual opportunity for an IFSEA Training Conference Scholarship. IFSEA's 2006 Conference will be held October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, Illinois.

- The scholarship will include the conference fee and lodging for the 2006 Annual Training Conference.
- Conference registration includes all meals with the exception of dinner on Monday night.
- The Scholarship recipient will be responsible for their transportation to and from the conference.
- Applicants need not be current IFSEA members but are required to be dedicated to the improvement of family support enforcement in Illinois.

Applicant Information:

Name:	
Title:	
Agency:	
Address:	
Telephone #:	Fax #:
E-mail Address:	

For what type of child support agency do you work? Check one:

- IDPA  Illinois Attorney General's Office       State's Attorney's Office\_\_\_\_  
 Private Attorney       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Job Description – Please attach a brief description of the type of work you do.

Essay – Please tell us in one to two pages why you are interested in applying for the scholarship and how attending the IFSEA Training Conference will benefit you and your customers.

**Applications must be postmarked by (to be announced).** Please return this application and related documentation to:

Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association  
 Attention: Pamela Compton  
 1917 South Whittier Avenue  
 Springfield, Illinois 62704

Thank you for your application!

**Illinois Family Support  
Enforcement Association**  
1917 South Whittier  
Springfield, IL 62704

Is Your Address Correct?  
See Reverse to Correct.

[www.illinoisfamilysupport.org](http://www.illinoisfamilysupport.org)