

FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association

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Reflections from the 2008 IFSEA Scholarship Winners

Jennifer Cox

The IFSEA conference was a great learning experience. I was able to attend sessions that gave me a greater understanding of child support enforcement processes, as well as a more thorough understanding of the family court system. The sessions were informative and fun!

Yet, in addition to learning a lot, the best part of the conference was meeting and interacting with the attendees. The variety of attendees allowed me to learn from the hands-on experiences they have within their specific child support enforcement niche. It was also great to put some faces with the names I deal with! Thanks again for the opportunity!

The IFSEA conference was a tremendous learning experience; it was also a lot of fun. The break-out Sessions gave me a greater understanding of all the different aspects of the child support enforcement processes.



In addition, the relationships/friendships that were formed with other attendees will prove to be invaluable I'm sure. It was also great to put some faces with the names of people I communicate with from time to time. Thanks again

for the opportunity and I definitely plan on attending again!

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Ted Scott



From the President . . .

...IFSEA UPDATE

By Sherrie Runge

I hope this forum provides you with some great information regarding the upcoming year. Our association will encounter many exciting changes this year with our recently adopted by-law changes. These changes alone will not accomplish all of the goals that resulted from the strategic planning session attended by the Board of Directors. However, they should set the stage and provide direction for IFSEA for some time to come. The board will be reaching out to the membership, not just directors, to join us in the planning and implementation of these goals, especially in regards to the newsletter and website.

As many of you may know NCSEA has canceled the Annual Training Conference this year in New York City due to the economic issues throughout the country. NCSEA is facing many challenges at this time and has filed for protection under Chapter 11. This action was done in an effort to reorganize and reduce future risk to NCSEA allowing them to work out meeting contracts, current commitments, and protect the interest of its membership. NCSEA continues in its efforts to advocate for the betterment of families and to provide training and education to meet the needs of the Child Support community.

In light of the NCSEA conference cancelation, as your president I will be representing IFSEA at the Annual ERICSA conference from March 29th through April 2nd, 2009 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The conference agenda offers many workshops and training sessions that look to be very informative and educational. I am honored and thankful for this opportunity and look forward to sharing my experience with the membership.

I hope you are planning to attend the 2009 IFSEA annual training conference to be held October 18-20 in Mundelein at the Crowne Plaza hotel. Irene Curran is chairing this year's conference and has some new and exciting things planned for our membership.

I would like to encourage the members to share copies of the Forum with other co-workers who may not have received a copy. Further, I would like to encourage members to share our Scholarship program information with co-workers who might like to attend the annual conference in October. The Scholarship program is a wonderful opportunity to share and introduce IFSEA to our partners and co-workers who might not otherwise have the ability to attend the conference.

By-Law Changes

Several amendments to IFSEA's by-laws were adopted at the October 2008 Member's Meeting. Here is a brief summary of those changes.

- Article III: Purposes – The seven existing purposes were rewritten and condensed to five.
- Article VI: Board of Directors – The overall number of Directors is reduced from 26 to 21 beginning with the upcoming elections in 2009.
- Article VII: Election of Directors – The terms of office for Directors changes from two years to three years and Directors can serve a maximum of two successive three-year terms.
- Article VII: Officers – There are several changes to this article. No officer or member is required to communicate a position that is in conflict with that person's primary organizational affiliation. Two new offices have been created, a Technology Officer and the Immediate Past President. The Technology Officer will chair the new Newsletter and Website Committee. Terms of office have been clarified, terms will begin December 1 following the election and end the following November 30.
- Article IX: Committees – There are two changes for this article, a new standing committee was created and named the Executive Committee, and the Publications Committee was renamed the Newsletter and Website Committee.

Please visit our website at www.illinoisfamilysupport.org to see the complete by-laws document.



From HFS . . .

. . . ILLINOIS IV-D UPDATE

By Pamela Lowry

In the IV-D world, March is the third month of the calendar year, the end of the third quarter of the state fiscal year, and the halfway mark for the federal fiscal year. We are deep in the midst of a very difficult economic cycle for the state, as well as for the nation as a whole, and like citizens everywhere we are paying careful attention to the messages of our state and national leaders.

Even as we negotiate these challenging times, we must still plan for the future and we are doing just that. One of our most significant new challenges is participation in a dialogue about Illinois' guidelines for support.

All states must establish guidelines for setting support and must conduct a quadrennial review of those guidelines. Each state's guidelines must be made available to judges and other officials who have the power to determine child support awards within the state, and guidelines must be based on a rebuttable presumption that the amount of the award that results from the application of the guidelines is the correct amount of child support to be awarded. Guidelines must be based on specific descriptive and numeric criteria; must take into consideration all earnings and income of the non-custodial parent; and must provide for the child's health care needs through health insurance coverage or other means.

Illinois' current guidelines model is called a "percentage of obligor net income model". Many other states use a "shared income model". In income shares models, guidelines allocate to the child the proportion of parental income estimated to have been spent on the child if the household were intact. In income shares models, parent's incomes are added together to calculate the relative proportion of income each parent has available. For example, if one parent earns \$1,500 per month and the other parent earns \$1,000 per month, the relative shares are 60% and 40% respectively. Next, a basic child support obligation is derived from a pre-determined table. Often, additional costs such as health insurance costs and day care are added to the basic obligation determined from the table. The total obligation is then determined by adding the basic obligation plus any added obligation. The obligation is then assigned to each parent in proportion to their income. Income shares models may also allow for adjustments based on parenting time, and may allow for consideration of very low and very high income parents. There are many variations on the basic model I've just described.

Under House Resolution 1101, the Illinois House of Representatives has appointed a Family Law Study Committee to review and update the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution Act. Illinois' statutory guideline are included in that Act, so the Family Law Study Committee will look at Illinois' guidelines model as a part of its much larger scope of review. Two members of the Child Support Advisory Committee were included in membership on the Family Law Study Committee, and HFS is working closely with both Committees. The income shares model has many advocates, and we are engaged in very serious discussions regarding the possibility that Illinois adopt of an income shares model.

As I have shared with both the Family Law Study Committee and the Child Support Advisory Committee, the IV-D program considers the income shares model to have many advantages. In fact, it is the most used model in the nation and appears to offer real opportunities to set support obligations based on an appreciation for the way families work together today. However, any change to the guidelines model will require careful thought about the particulars of the model, adequate time for implementation, and adequate resources for implementation. We are committed to continuing this work with both the Family Law Study Subcommittee and the Child Support Advisory Committee, and to working with all our partners and interested parties to continue this important dialogue and to support recommendations that make families stronger for the future.

As always, I invite IFSEA members to let me know what you think on this or any topic related to the IV-D program. Director Maram and I remain committed to sustaining an open dialogue with all of you, and to our continuing process improvements. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fall Conference.

Sincerely,
Pam

IFSEA to Sponsor a Second Lewin Group Study

Again this year IFSEA will help the National Council of Child Support Directors by sponsoring a study the group has commissioned to be conducted by the Lewin Group. The study on Cost Avoidance is related to Medical Support and the population that relies upon government supported medical programs to meet their family financial health needs. Last year IFSEA helped sponsor a similar study that was used in support of replacing funding lost through the Deficit Reduction Act.

This new study fits in with IFSEA's goal of participating in activities at the National level since it is based on the premise that Child Support should have the same funding priority as Medical programs because Child Support programs serve the same population. When Child Support workers find an employer who provides full medical coverage for a family, that family moves into a more secure health insurance environment that has a positive effect on the money needed to fund medical programs. IFSEA's support of the Lewin Group study will help the National Council of Child Support Directors' argument for revision of the Deficit Reduction Act.

The Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association Board of Directors announces the 5th annual opportunity for an IFSEA Training Conference Scholarship. IFSEA's 2009 Conference will be held October 18th-20th, Mundelein, Illinois.

- IFSEA awards two scholarships each year to the annual conference.
- Each scholarship will include the conference registration fee and lodging for the 2009 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:

- HFS
 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 September 18, 2009. Please return this application and related documentation to:

Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association
 Attention: Christine Towles

Thank you for your application!

FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM

is the official newsletter of the

ILLINOIS FAMILY SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Carol Stream, IL 60188

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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, 335 E. Geneva Road, Carol Stream, IL 60188
(FEIN: 37-1274237)

(1/05)

Save the Date

The 21st annual Conference and Member's Meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Chicago – North Shore in Mundelein, IL, October 18 – 20, 2009. Tentative sessions include:

- How to Appeal an Administrative Ruling
- Income Sharing
- Dealing with the Special Needs of the Military
- UIFSA Strategies
- And Much More!!!

Special Green Note

If you still receive the Forum by snail mail and would prefer to get it electronically, please provide your email address to Christine Towles at Christine.towles@illinois.gov

**Illinois Family Support
Enforcement Association**
335 E. Geneva Road
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Is Your Address Correct?
See Reverse to Correct.

www.illinoisfamilysupport.org