

13699-82 Women New York Bi-Monthly News from the Women's Division of B1 F32
Part 1 of 2 the State of New York Issue, Volume 3, Number 6

July/August 1979



Child Support Enforcement Program Increases Its Effectiveness

She had been divorced for two years. During that time she received irregular child support payments for her three children. Then the payments stopped completely and she couldn't find her ex-husband.

After struggling for several months trying to make ends meet, she sought aid from the Department of Social Services (DSS) under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC) program.

The Department granted her aid, but with her consent went one step further. DSS began procedures to locate the children's father in order to arrange for him to support them under the Child Support Enforcement Program which went into effect in August, 1975 as part of Title 4, Section D of the Social Security Act.

Title 4-D Section requires states to develop independent units responsible for carrying out the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Program. In New York State this unit, the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), is located in the Department of Social Services (DSS). The mandate of the Child Support Enforcement program is the location of absent parents and the collection of support payments from such parents. All citizens have access to the program's child support enforcement services although the primary focus is to reduce the cost of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC). In order to qualify for ADC, recipients must assign their support rights to the State and Social Services Department and cooperate in the effort to obtain child support.

As of December, 1978 there were 367,146 ADC families representing 1,124,614 persons in the State. 99% of the families are headed by females. Approximately 460,000 cases were serviced in 1978 by the CSE program.

Child support collections obtained through the program benefit Federal, State and local governments by reimbursing costs of ADC payments. Local governments benefit additionally by retaining from the Federal share of reimbursement, 15 percent of each collection. Although the location process is usually in direct control of the agency, the support process is not. In New York State, a legally enforceable support obligation is established by Order of Court.

In 1978, the State collected nearly \$50 million or 12% over reported collections of \$44 million in 1977. No collection figures were compiled for non-ADC cases.

Federal law requires that all ADC cases in which eligibility is based on the absence of a parent from the home assign support rights and be referred from the local income maintenance agency to the local child support enforcement agency. New York State has 58 districts that locally administer their own child support programs. Assigned support rights must be enforced in a Family Court proceeding in which a fair and reasonable amount of child support is fixed by the court. Non-ADC clients do not have to assign support rights nor do they have to be referred by an ADC Agency.

Where the location of the absent parent is not known, the local unit must pursue local sources as to the parent's whereabouts. A referral is also made to the Parent Locator Service (PLS) to obtain state level location information. PLS may, in turn, solicit the Federal PLS for Federal level location information.



LOOK TO THE FUTURE

A spring conference was held at Cornell University entitled "The Businesswoman: A New Market For the Travel and Hospitality Industry." The theme of the conference was taken from the words of Reva Barton, Senior Vice President of J. Walter Thompson: "Women are a moving target, and if you want to reach them you cannot aim at where they are—you aim at where they are going."

Participants included representatives from travel, hotel, advertising, credit card companies, travel agents, transportation terminals and government. The American woman is recognized as one of the fastest growing market segments in the airline industry.

Hopefully many of the suggestions made at the conference will become guidelines for the industry to improve travel for women and men.

Mary Burke Nicholas

Note: In Afghanistan, a new law requires a negligent driver to pay \$4,895 for running over a man, and \$2,447 for running over a woman.

New Woman
March-April, 1979

Governor Carey Announces Additional Programs for Women in New York State

Governor Carey on May 17th at the opening session of the first National Conference For Women in Crisis in New York City in announcing a series of studies, administrative changes and proposed legislation, made clear his continuing commitment to assuring equal opportunity and treatment between men and women.

"Throughout most of history, our earth was considered 'A man's world.' The needs of women were seldom met, or worse, not even considered. But through the work of individuals like you, and the groups you represent, women are no longer considered second class citizens," said the Governor.

"In my State of the State message to the people of New York in January, I spoke of this Administration's determination to assure women a fair chance to share the rewards and opportunities of a free society.

"I would like to share with you," said Governor Carey, "a number of steps I have taken, and will take, that reflect that commitment.

"Women comprise 52.7 per cent of this state's population. They make up 43.4 per cent of our work force.

"Alcoholism affects one out of every ten New Yorkers aged 21 to 66. It means a loss of productivity, birth defects, and even death. It affects both sexes. Yet until recently, research has been primarily on male subjects, with little attention given to the special problems of women who drink.

"Today I am announcing a study to help employers identify and refer alcoholic women employees to work-based rehabilitation programs. Alcoholic women tend to leave their jobs or are fired. Our program will encourage employers to retain and hire recovering alcoholic women. We cannot afford to ignore the plight of the alcoholic working woman any more than we can afford the loss of productivity.

"I am also announcing today the creation of the Domestic Violence Task Force. This group will recommend the most effective ways for state government to respond to the critical law enforcement and social prob-

lems posed by domestic violence. The Task Force will include a legal aid attorney, representatives of the family and criminal courts, a provider of community services to battered spouses, state agencies representatives and persons who have been victims of domestic violence. The problem is complex and it affects families from all social and economic backgrounds." The Task Force will organize a shelter staff conference to be held in Albany.

"To help acquire more of the necessary facts for this most important work, I am instructing the Division of Criminal Justice Services to collect and analyze data on all incidents of domestic violence reported to the police.

"I have submitted legislation to conform the language of our Displaced Homemakers Act to that of the Federal Law to increase the potential for additional federal support through vehicles such as the CETA program. Funding totalling \$1.1 million has already been approved for centers in New York City, Erie, Nassau, and Rockland Counties, and we will be making every effort to expand this program to other parts of the State.

"In this the International Year of the Child, we must also expand our efforts to help care for the children of working women when that assistance is necessary.

"Today I am announcing a state-wide change in day-care regulations to establish a 'looking for work' period for parents of day-care children. This change will replace a varied schedule of from zero to four months with a uniform standard of six months of day care for parents who are employed and lose their jobs, or who have been enrolled in training programs and are now looking for work. This change will allow parents the flexibility to find new employment without the necessity of removing their children from the stable day-care environment."

Giving full recognition to the need for greater participation of women in government, the Governor declared, "I want more women in government. I want to remove any obstacles to their advancing to any levels of responsibility their abilities merit. Last year we held a series of career planning and training seminars for women in State Government and I have directed that five additional career day programs for women be held in major cities this year. Additionally, I am appointing a Task Force to analyze existing State employee training programs to assure that they are up-to-date, and that remnants of past traditional thinking do not impair the ability of our workers, particularly women, to compete successfully for advancement.

"I am also issuing an executive directive in support of the newly-expanded bridge program, which will enable workers to escape from dead-end jobs and encourage them to move into increasingly responsible positions. This program was developed by my Office of Employee Relations and the Civil Service Employees Association and will receive greater exposure through my directive. The dates for the bridge examinations will be announced soon."

What We Do

Women in New York State, are you aware that you have an advocate inside State Government? The Women's Division in the Executive Chamber works with appointed officials and civil servants in State agencies to ensure that the interests, needs and rights of women are met whenever and wherever possible; we consult with legislators and their staffs both in Albany and Washington as a voice on behalf of women. These activities derive from our mandate to promote equal opportunity and status for women, as set forth in Governor Carey's Executive Order No. 8, issued on April 11, 1975. This Executive Order gives the Women's Division cabinet status — a decision-making voice in State Government.

WOMEN NEW YORK

Women New York is the bimonthly newsletter of the WOMEN'S DIVISION, Executive Chamber, State of New York, Director, Mary Burke Nicholas; Deputy Director, Angela Cabrera. This issue is Vol. 3 No. 6. Produced by the *Women's Division*: Associate Director for Public Information and Editor, Annette Samuels; Associate Editor: Libby Antarsh, Special Assistant for Legislation; with special thanks to Eileen Kiernan, Secretary to the Director; and Beatrice Williams.

Women in the State Legislature

Rhoda S. Jacobs
43rd A.D.



"I am working closely with my colleagues to insure that women enjoy full equal rights as members of our society, in their various capacities as homemakers, members of the work force, or retirees. Laws that relegate women to a special inferior class of citizen are a reflection of feudal times."

"Those unwritten laws in our society that also prevent women from realizing their full potential as individuals will be changed by example, education, confrontation where necessary, and legislation. I am interested in legislation in such areas as: Discrimination in life, health, auto insurance and pensions; free choice, displaced homemakers, day care, gender/neuter education, divorce reform, and equal employment opportunities."

Rhoda S. Jacobs took office on January, 1979 as a member of the Assembly from Brooklyn's 43rd District. She was born in Brooklyn and graduated from Lincoln and Brooklyn College. Ms. Jacobs worked 2½ years on a Kibbutz in Israel (including the period of the 1956 War); her responsibilities included everything from driving a tractor to

standing guard duty. She has tutored and taught Japanese to labor Union Officials in Japan.

In 1970 Ms. Jacobs helped establish day care facilities for Brooklyn College faculty and later became a co-director of the Center. She was active in community-controlled day care and the Brooklyn College Women's Organization.

Ms. Jacobs is affiliated with N.O.W. and the Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus; she has also worked for ERA.

A delegate of the 1972 Democratic Convention, she was elected Democratic State Committee Woman/District Leader in 1974. Ms. Jacobs resides with her husband and three children.

Joan B. Hague
110th A.D.



"I'm particularly interested in human service issues, such as child care, court reform, aging, problems of working women and single parenthood."

Joan B. Hague, Republican-Conservative, was born in Glens Falls. She attended the public schools of Glens Falls, was graduated from Tusculum College and did graduate work at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Ms. Hague served as Warren County Commissioner of Jurors from 1971-1978.

Assemblywoman Hague is active in many community and civic organizations such as the Glens Falls Club of College Women, Vice President of New York State Association of Commissioners of Jurors, Warren County Social Services Advisory Council and

the Attorney General's Committee on Consumer Affairs.

The Assemblywoman has long been active in New York State Republican activities. She is presently the Warren County Republican Vice Chair, served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention and is a past Conference Chair of the NYS Federation of Womens' Republican Clubs Conference.

In 1974 Assemblywoman Hague was selected to receive the Republican State Chair's Award as one of the ten outstanding Republican women in New York State.

Ms. Hague is married to Roger S. Hague, and they reside in Rolling Ridge, Glens Falls with their three children.

Committee assignments: Judiciary, Environmental Conservation and Tourism.

Estella B. Diggs
78th A.D.



This is Estella B. Diggs' fourth term representing the 78th Assembly District of the Bronx. As the senior woman legislator in the Assembly, Mrs. Diggs is Chairwoman of the Bi-Partisan Legislative Women's Caucus which established concern for teenage pregnancy and health care for women in prison as first priorities of the 1979 session.

Mrs. Diggs is also sponsoring several nutrition bills as Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy. One would allow senior citizens to use food stamps in certain restaurants and another would provide \$3.5 million to enlarge

the Women, Infants and Children feeding program.

"I like to use my committee memberships to act on my concern for people. I am on Housing, Mental Health, Child Care and Social Services committees where I can really respond to the needs of people."

Assemblywoman Diggs is currently the only black woman in the New York State Legislature.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, she received her higher education at Pace College, New York Institute of Dietetics, and City College of New York. Assemblywoman Diggs is a former confidential aide to Supreme Court Judge Donald J. Sullivan; ex-teacher and State Committeewoman. She is currently a District Chairperson of the March of Dimes; an honorary Chairperson of the Bronx Citizens Committee Sobering Up Station; a Board Member of Morrisania Senior Citizen Center.

Mrs. Diggs is Secretary to the Democratic Conference of the New York State Assembly; Secretary of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of New York State; Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Food, Farm and Nutrition policy; she serves on the Assembly Committees on Agriculture, Child Care, Housing and Mental Health and Social Services.

A. Pinny Cooke 132nd A.D.



"My concerns regarding women for the 1979-80 legislative session will center around battered wives, child abuse, equal rights for fathers and mothers, equal job opportunities,

pregnancy payments for those who are on leave and more immediate help from the Division of Human Rights in regard to many harassments suffered by women.

"In addition, I am concerned with the lack of a work-study program for incarcerated women in our State. I would also like to see a tax break for the housewife who is not employed and this legislation will be coming up via the newly-formed Assemblywomen's Caucus.

"I am hoping to introduce legislation also that will provide women who have given innumerable years of volunteer service and have much expertise in their fields to be given proper credit on an application for employment with their background.

"I'm interested always in fair and equitable treatment in the quality of life for everyone but there are certainly many rights of life still not available for the women in our State."

Assemblywoman Pinny Cooke has been married to Henry Cooke for 33 years. She resides in Rochester, New York

She and her husband are the parents of three children; Margy Cooke Taylor, a special education teacher; Bess Cooke Lewis, a pediatric nurse and Jon Cooke, a recent graduate of Purdue University. Her first grandchild was born on the same day as the Special Election, February 14, 1978.

Assemblywoman Cooke received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Social Administration from Ohio State University.

She served for ten years as the Director for Social Services at the Al Sige Center and two years as Director of Adult Activities at the Jewish Center in Rochester.

Carol Berman 9th S.D.



As one of four women in the New York State Senate, Senator Berman has listed issues concerning women as among her legislative priorities. She is most concerned with divorce reform, battered spouses, and sex discrimination in insurance. In addition, the Senator hopes to deal in the areas of child abuse, women and alcoholism and the displaced homemaker. As a member of the newly created Minority Task Force on Women's Issues, Senator Berman will be conducting hearings in her District as well as across the State to determine the specific need of the women in New York.

Senator Carol Berman is a community leader and former School Board Trustee who was elected to the State Senate in 1978. She has had a professional career as a journalist and also as Administrative Aide to former Congressman Herbert Tenzer and former Assemblyman Eli Wager. She is, perhaps, best known for her leadership of the anti SST Coalition which opposed the operation of supersonic aircraft at John F. Kennedy Airport.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan, Senator Berman has been a resident of Lawrence, N.Y. for the past 23 years. She is the wife of insurance executive, S. Jerome Berman, and the mother of two children. Her daughter, Elizabeth Berman Berry, lives with her husband, David Berry, in St. Paul and is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Her son, Charles, is a graduate of the State University at Albany.

—Continued from p. 1

When the location of the absent parent is known or determined, the local agency attempts to obtain an acknowledgement of paternity, where appropriate, and a voluntary agreement for support. The amount of the support obligation is calculated by use of a support formula developed by DSS based on the absent parent's ability to support and the needs of the deserted family. Financial information regarding an absent parent may be obtained through several sources, including the New York State Wage Reporting System and the Internal Revenue Service. Data obtained from IRS may not be brought into court. The district must obtain outside verification of data obtained from the IRS.

Whether or not the absent parent has entered into a support agreement DSS will petition the court for an amount of support within the formula range. It is the Family Court Judge who makes the decision as to the amount of support which will be legally owed i.e. the support obligation.

Effective January 1, 1979, virtually all support orders are supposed to provide for an automatic income deduction upon the failure of the respondent to make a specified number of child support payments as set forth in the order.

Once a child support order is obtained, monies are collected by the local Support Collection Unit (SCU). The SCU is a unit within the local Department of Social Services responsible for collection and monitoring child support payments for all orders made payable "through the SCU" by the court. This includes welfare and non-welfare cases. The SCU sends delinquency notices when support payments are missed and identifies when the specified number of payments are missed, as set out in the support order.

The local child support enforcement unit is required to distribute child support collections in accordance with federal mandate, and report the amount of collection in a

particular case to the income maintenance unit. That unit then determines if such payments make the family ineligible for continued public assistance.

The child support enforcement (CSEU) unit is also responsible for enforcing support orders. In addition to obtaining income deduction orders, the CSEU utilizes liens, judgments and other innovative and traditional remedies. A new method of enforcement made available by the legislation is the collection of child support arrearages through the Internal Revenue Service. New York State is a pioneer in using the IRS for a major collection effort.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES-NON ADC

Financial support is a child's right—and a parent's responsibility. But some parents try to avoid this responsibility and their children are forced to rely on public assistance or the kindness of friends and relatives for the necessities of life.

To reduce the impact of a missing parent on a family with dependent children, local social services departments, the New York State Department of Social Services and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare have developed a program of Child Support Services under Title 4, Section D of the Federal Social Security Act.

This program is designed to help families find missing parents and obtain child support. It also can be used to locate the father of a child born out-of-wedlock, establish paternity and obtain support for the child. The support which may be obtained under the program can help a family to remain financially independent or reduce their dependence on public assistance.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:

The Parent Locator Service: This is an investigation and search of state and, if necessary, federal agency files, including those of the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administra-

tion and Department of Defense. A thorough search for a missing parent may take as long as six to eight months. When the search is completed, a report of the results—positive or negative—is sent to the client. A field investigation can be conducted if necessary.

Establishment of Support Obligation and Paternity: Once the individual is located, the local social services department may help the client prepare and file appropriate support petitions or a paternity petition. Legal representation can be provided if necessary and requested. These actions can even be taken against parents living outside of New York State.

Collections and Enforcement: The client may request that the local social services department serve as collector of child support payments through the support collection unit. The department will monitor payments and, upon request, enforce any court-ordered support. Legal representation can be provided if necessary and requested.

These services and any information obtained through them cannot be used to collect bills, prosecute law suits, pursue alimony or for any effort not directly related to child support. Child Support Services are available to:

- A parent of a dependent child, including step and adoptive parents
- A legal guardian of a dependent child
- A relative with custody of a dependent child
- A legal representative with power of attorney or written authorization from one of the above
- A private or public agency or institution responsible for the child
- An emancipated minor
- A non-legally responsible relative who applies for the service on behalf of a child in his or her custody who has been deserted or abandoned, when a person legally responsible for that child has not yet been named or found.

If you are a non-public assistance person, further information on how to utilize these valuable services offered by the State can be obtained from your local Department of Social Services.

Applicants must furnish proof of his or her identity and be prepared to demonstrate eligibility for the service.

Child support services are free unless the individual specifically requests a field investigation or legal services. These special services are provided only if necessary and their costs will be collected from forthcoming support payments. To obtain these services, the applicant must sign a "Right to Recovery" agreement which allows the social services department to make these collections. Refusal to sign will make the applicant ineligible for these two services.

THE BENEFITS

Child Support Services are for both parent and child. For the parent, these services can mean greater financial independence or a reduced need for public assistance. For the child, they can mean economic security.

There is an added benefit for children born out-of-wedlock. By acknowledging paternity, the father also recognizes the child's right to inherit from him or to claim the benefits of his social security, health or life insurance.

The Women's Division Calls for Closer Look at Proposed Communications Legislation

On June 16th the Women's Division of the Governor's Office of the State of New York entered testimony at a public hearing held by the New York Citizens Committee for Responsible Media calling for a closer look at the proposed Congressional rewriting of the Federal Communications Act of 1934.

The Division's testimony made the following points:

1. Under the present statute, the FCC has adopted rules prohibiting discrimination in employment and requiring affirmative action programs. H.R. 3333 appears to remove EEO enforcement for radio immediately and for television after ten years.
2. Under the present statute licenses are issued for three-year terms. H.R. 3333 would license radio and alternately television for an indefinite period of time, thereby removing from the station any pressure or incentive to "clean up its act" in order to win renewal.
3. Under the present statute comparative hearings are required to determine which applicant would better serve the public interest. H.R. 3333 would provide a random selection from among all qualified applicants with minority applicants having two applicants in the random selection process. The process is doubtful constitutionally and the random process in itself would not seem to serve best the public interest.

4. Under the present statute the Fairness Doctrine requires coverage of controversial issues of public importance and reasonable opportunity for presenting opposing issues. H.R. 3333 would repeal the Doctrine immediately for radio and in ten years for television, cutting off an important arena of public debate of sensitive issues.

We recognize the long overdue need for reconsideration and revision of the Communications Law. However, the Women's Division holds that such Legislation should reflect not only consideration of changing technology but the effects on public interest and in particular effects on newly-won gains by women and minorities.

Until such time as a way is found to insure accountability to the public interest and access of the Communications Media for all interest groups, the Women's Division must join in support of minorities, consumers and professional groups opposing passage of H.R. 3333 as it stands.

For Your Information

Newsletter and Other Guides

Network News:

Displaced Homemakers now have a national newsletter. Published by the Displaced Homemakers Network, the newsletter provides information on available programs, scholarships, funding sources and Network activities.

For further information, write to Displaced Homemakers Network, c/o BPW, 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Guide Book to Political Power:

The Federation of Organizations for Professional Women in Washington, D.C., has published a sophisticated guidebook for American Women concerned about political power.

This useful source book lists those in Federal Government who are there to help women as well as those in the Capitol who are women.

"Organizations and individuals that monitor the impact of Federal policy on women" are listed by the issues they oversee; women in all branches of Government are listed; including executive agencies you probably never heard of. Details are given on Federal Government programs and offices of specific interest to women; and a reading list of publications that report on legislative and policy developments of special concern to women is also included.

Add to the above: a straightforward alphabet of women you might want to call, write or wire, giving their job titles, addresses, and telephone numbers, makes it easier for you to stay in touch and give support to those who represent you in seats of power.

Copies are \$8, post paid from Federation of Organizations for Professional Women, 2000 P Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

Working Women's Guide:

Do you know what Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 means to you?

Do you know how the Age Discrimination in Employment affects you?

Do you know how public law 95-555, approved October 31, 1978 affects the pregnant worker?

These and other questions are answered in *A Working Woman's Guide to Her Job Rights* published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau.

Copies are \$1.60 and can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Guide to Marriage and Divorce in New York

Do you know what the laws are in New York State that govern your marriage, divorce, separation, support, and property?

A Woman's Guide to Marriage and Divorce in New York answers the above questions and some.

Published by the: Women's Law Center, 1414 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100, New York, N.Y. 10019, single copy \$3.00; 5 copies \$2.40 each and 10 or more copies \$1.80 each. *All orders must be prepaid.*

Conferences

On November 9th through the 11th the *National Conference of Puerto Rican Women* will hold its 7th Annual Conference at the Roosevelt Hotel on 45th Street and Madison Avenue in New York City.

The Conference's theme is, "The Emergence of the Puerto Rican Woman." National President, Angela Cabrera. For further information: Call 212-288-9755.

WOMEN NEW YORK

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Executive Chamber / State of New York
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New York, New York 10019

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Women In State Government

✓ Sen. Carol Berman D-type set/w photo (5)

Assembly - A. Pinney Cooke - R. (4) ✓
" - Estella Diggs - D. (3) ✓
" - Joan B. Hague - R/C (2) ✓
" - Rhoda S. Jacobs - D/L (1)



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

PINNY COOKE
ASSEMBLYWOMAN
132ND DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING-ROOM 430
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248
(518) 472-2150

February 1, 1979

IN ROCHESTER:
2541 MONROE AVENUE
(716) 271-5121

BIOGRAPHY

PINNY COOKE
347 Cobbs Hill Drive
Rochester, New York 14610

Married - 33 years to Henry Cooke

Children - Margy Cooke Taylor -- Special education teacher with
Masters degree in special education
Bess Cooke Lewis -- Pediatric nurse with Masters degree in
pediatric nursing
Jon Cooke -- Recent graduate of Purdue University
Campaign Manager for Assemblywoman Pinny Cooke

10 years as Director of Social Services at the Al Sigl Center

2 years as Director of Adult Activities at the Jewish Center in Rochester

Education - Ohio State University -- Bachelor of Science and Master of
Science in Social Administration

Served on Brandeis University Board for 6 years

At present serves on Hemophilia Center Board, Compeer Board at the
Health Association, Planning Committee for the Monroe County
Nurses Association

First political office - 3 years as Leader of the 21st Legislative
District in Rochester and Campaign Manager for
several candidates

First grandchild born on the same day as the Special Election,
February 14, 1978

Etc., Etc., Etc.



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ESTELLA B. DIGGS
78TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
BRONX COUNTY
633 EAST 169TH STREET
BRONX, NEW YORK 10456

CHAIRPERSON
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION
AND
MAJORITY PANEL ON
WOMEN'S ISSUES

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.Y.S. Women's Division
FROM: Assemblywoman Diggs
DATE: April 25, 1979
SUBJECT: Legislative Program Description

I trust that the enclosed program description and accompanying picture are what you need for an idea of my activities and involvement in the Assembly,

Received
Women's Division
Executive Chamber
State of New York

Received
Women's Division
Executive Chamber
State of New York

MAY 3 1979

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ALBANY

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN

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IN ROCHESTER:
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(716) 271-5121

March 5, 1979

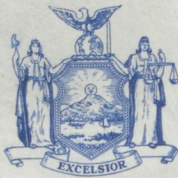
Legislative Program

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COMMITTEES
CHILD CARE
HOUSING
MENTAL HEALTH
SOCIAL SERVICES

CHAIRPERSON
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION
AND
MAJORITY PANEL ON
WOMEN'S ISSUES

1979 Legislative Program

This is/
As Estella B. Diggs begins her fourth term representing the 78th Assembly District of the Bronx, she is sponsoring a varied and comprehensive legislative program reflective of her many legislative posts. As the senior woman legislator in the Assembly, Mrs. Diggs is Chairwoman of the Bi-Partisan Legislative Women's Caucus ~~now establishing~~ teenage pregnancy and health care for women in prison as first priorities of the 1979 session. *which is established*

Mrs. Diggs is also sponsoring several nutrition bills as Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy. One would allow senior citizens to use food stamps in certain restaurants and another would provide \$ 3.5 million dollars to enlarge the Women, Infants and Children feeding program.

"I like to use my committee memberships to act on my concern for people. I am on Housing, Mental Health, Child Care and Social Services committees where I can really respond to the needs of people," Mrs. Diggs is able to exchange her views with fellow legislators in her capacity as Secretary of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus and the Democratic Conference.

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EBD/laf

BIOGRAPHY

1/8 ✓
Assemblywoman Estella B. Diggs, currently the only black woman in the New York State Legislature, is now serving in her fourth term. Ms. Diggs has been an able, dedicated and sincere legislator. She has sponsored laws that have...Increased police protection in housing projects...Provided monies for educating consumers on how to get the most out of the Federal Food Stamp Program...Made it tougher for juvenile criminals to walk away without punishment. In fact, Assemblywoman Diggs has had the distinction of having nine of her bills signed into law by the Governor.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, she received her higher education at Pace College, New York Institute of Dietetics, and City College of New York. Assemblywoman Diggs is a former confidential aide to Supreme Court Judge Donald J. Sullivan; ex-teacher and State Committeewoman. She is currently a Senior Citizen's Committee Board Member; a District Chairperson of the March of Dimes; a honorary Chairperson of the Bronx Citizens Committee Sobering Up Station; a Board Member of Morisania Senior Citizen Center and a member of the following organizations: Catholic Interracial Council; Committee on Redlining; Business and Professional Women; Manhood, Inc.

She is active with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and in 1975-1977 she served as Parade Marshall for the Afro-American Day Parade. She is also a Regional Officer of the National Organization of Women Legislators.

Mrs. Diggs is the co-founder of the Black Women's Caucus with Rep. Shirley Chisholm; served as Treasurer of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, 1974 and 1975; Chairwoman of the 4th Annual Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Dinner; Assistant Secretary of the Council of Black Elected Officials, Assistant Treasurer of the Council of Black Elected Officials.

Assemblywoman Diggs was given the Legislator of the Year Award for 1977 by the NYS Forensic Society. She was responsible for the restoration of ghetto medicine funds in the 1977 budget; co-sponsor of a program to send children to Vermont for a two week vacation; she co-sponsors the Camp Fordham summer recreational program at Fordham University; for the past 10 years, she has distributed Christmas Baskets to senior citizens and shut-ins in her district. Mrs. Diggs was recently named Woman of the Year by the Muslims Women's Association and the Bronx N.A.A.C.P.

Mrs. Diggs is Secretary to the Democratic Conference of New York State Assembly; Secretary of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of New York State; Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy; she serves on the Assembly Committees on Agricultural, Child Care, Housing and Mental Health and Social Services.

Biography - Joan B. Hague

Joan B. Hague, Republican-Conservative, was born in Glens Falls. She attended the public schools of Glens Falls, was graduated from Tusculum College and did graduate work at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Mrs. Hague served as Warren County Commissioner of Jurors from 1971-1978.

Assemblywoman Hague is active in many community and civic organizations such as the Glens Falls Club of College Women, Queensbury Boosters Club, Vice President of New York State Association of Commissioner of Jurors, Glens Falls Hospital Guild, Lake George Association, Warren County Social Services Advisory Council and the Attorney General's Committee on Consumer Affairs.

The Assemblywoman has long been active in New York State Republican activities. She is presently the Warren County Republican Vice Chairman, served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention and is a past Conference Chairman of the NYS Federation of Womens' Republican Clubs Conference.

In 1974 Assemblywoman Hague was selected to receive the Republican State Chairman's Award as one of the ten outstanding Republican women in New York State.

Mrs. Hague is married to Roger S. Hague, and they reside in Rolling Ridge, Glens Falls with their three children.

Committee assignments: Judiciary, Environmental Conservation and Tourism.

Received
Women's Division
Executive Chamber
State of New York

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(Women)

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Women New York
June / July 1979

Pages 2-3

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Governor Carey Announces
Additional Programs for Women
in New York State - (all caps)

Governor Carey on May 17 at
the opening session of the First
National Conference for Women in
Crisis in New York City in announcing
a series of studies, administrative
changes and proposed legislation,
made clear his continuing commitment
to assuring equal opportunity and
treatment between men and women.

Bea:

pick-up from "throughout - - -

Insert A (page 4)

Giving full recognition to the
need for greater participation of
women in government, The Governor
declared, "I want ---"

TEXT OF REMARKS BY GOVERNOR HUGH L. CAREY PREPARED FOR DELIVERY AT A NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS SHERATON CENTRE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1979, 9:30 A.M.

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
HUGH L. CAREY, GOVERNOR

Michael Patterson, Press Secretary
518-474-8418
212-977-2716

Page 2 + 3

FOR RELEASE:
IMMEDIATE, THURSDAY
MAY 17, 1979

It is a pleasure to be here today to welcome the many concerned professionals from throughout the country who are deeply concerned about women in crisis.

"Throughout most of history, our earth was considered "a man's world." The needs of women were seldom met, or worse, not even considered. But through the work of individuals like you, and the groups you represent, women are no longer considered second class citizens," said the Governor.

There are still barriers to equal opportunity and equal treatment between men and women -- old prejudices die hard. But at least in terms of the needs of women, in the provision of assistance when problems arise, a male-dominated government has done much more than acknowledge that a problem exists. This is particularly true in New York State. "In my State Of The State message to the people of New York in January, I spoke of this Administration's determination to assure women a fair chance to share the rewards and opportunities of a free society.

"I would like to share with you, this morning a number of steps I have taken, and will take, that reflect that commitment. Areas that I will touch upon include alcoholism, spouse abuse, the displaced homemaker, and affirmative action."

"Women comprise 52.7 per cent of this state's population. They make up 43.4 per cent of our work force.

"Alcoholism affects one out of every ten New Yorkers aged 21 to 66. It means a loss of productivity, birth defects, and even death. It affects both sexes. Yet until recently, research has been primarily on male subjects, with little attention given to the special problems of women who drink.

(more)

I'm working to change that in New York State. Recently I appointed a Task Force on the Fetal Alcohol Effect to increase public awareness of the relationship between drinking during pregnancy and birth defects. In February, I funded community alcoholism education programs in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates Counties to alert women to the potential for alcohol abuse and alcoholism in their lives.

→ And today I am announcing a study to help employers identify and refer alcoholic women employees to work-based rehabilitation programs. Alcoholic women tend to leave their jobs or are fired. Our program will encourage employers to retain and hire recovering alcoholic women. We cannot afford to ignore the plight of the alcoholic working woman any more than we can afford the loss of productivity.

→ I am also announcing today the creation of the Domestic Violence Task Force. This group will recommend the most effective ways for state government to respond to the critical law enforcement and social problems posed by domestic violence. I will announce my appointments to the Task Force within the next few days. They will include a legal aid attorney, representatives of the family and criminal courts, a provider of community services to battered spouses, state agencies representatives and persons who have been victims of domestic violence. The problem is complex and it affects families from all social and economic backgrounds.

The leadership of the Senate and Assembly have worked closely with me over the last three years, enabling us to begin to address the multiple problems of the victims of domestic violence. We have enacted bipartisan landmark legislation to allow a battered spouse to choose the Criminal or Family Court, depending on the desire to prosecute or keep the family intact.

We have established shelters for victims and their children to provide assistance that otherwise would not be available. And this year alone, we have awarded grants totalling \$497,550 to eleven demonstration projects including shelters, legal advocacy, rural outreach transportation, counselling and referral and short-term emergency homes. Our goal is to keep the family intact, but also to protect each of the family members.

(more)

I see these steps we have taken as only a beginning. The Task Force is to make administrative and legislative recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 1980. It will also organize a Conference to be held in Albany during this summer. This conference will allow individuals who are participating in functioning shelters throughout the State to share their experience for the benefit of victims of domestic violence.

I am also establishing an Advisory Board to the Task Force, to be comprised of the Commissioners and Directors of the State Agencies which are involved with the problem of domestic violence, as well as elected public officials.

→ To help acquire more of the necessary facts for this most important work, I am submitting legislation to require the Division of Criminal Justice Services to collect and analyze data on all incidents of domestic violence reported to the police.

But if women are to fully share the rewards and opportunities of our society, we must do more than help in times of dire distress. We must also be prepared to assist when they have to -- or want to -- enter or re-enter the job market.

I am proud today that New York's displaced homemaker program is the largest of its kind in the country. Our centers help bolster self-esteem, offer job readiness counselling and training programs, and make employment referrals for the homemakers who must return to the employment market because of widowhood, divorce, or the need for additional family income.

also
→ I am proposing legislation to conform the language of our Displaced Homemakers Act to that of the Federal Law to increase the potential for additional federal support through vehicles such as the CETA program. Funding totalling \$1.1 million has already been approved for centers in New York City, Erie, Nassau, and Rockland Counties, and we will be making every effort to expand this program to other parts of the state.

← leave in
→ In this, the International Year of the Child, we must also expand our efforts to help care for the children of working women when that assistance is necessary.

(more)

Seventy per cent of the mothers of pre-school children in this country work. Matilda Cuomo, spouse of the Lieutenant Governor, is chairing my State Commission on The International Year of the Child. She is working to promote new and better programs for all of our children.

But today I am announcing a state-wide change in day-care regulations to establish a "looking for work" period for parents of day-care children. This change will replace a varied schedule of from zero to four months with a uniform standard of six months of day care for parents who are employed and lose their jobs, or who have been enrolled in training programs and are now looking for work. This change will allow parents the flexibility to find new employment without the necessity of removing their children from the stable day-care environment.

As more women become heads of households, they must be concerned with protecting their families from the unexpected. Therefore, the Women's Division of my office, headed by Mary Burke Nicholas, has been holding a series of forums throughout the State on the special problems of women and insurance. Two such forums were held yesterday on Long Island, and additional forums will be held in other parts of the State in months to come.

We want better and more equal opportunities for women and we are working to achieve that goal. But the best lesson is always by example. During my first term I signed Executive Orders insisting that we take the lead in affirmative action programs. Last year we held a series of career planning and training seminars for women workers in State Government to make them more aware of the opportunities available to them. Although three thousand women participated in this program, many more had to be turned away.

Insert A -

"I want more women in government. I want to remove any obstacles to their advancing to any levels of responsibility their abilities merit. Therefore, I have directed that five additional career day programs be held in major cities across this state for the benefit of female employees. Additionally, I am appointing a Task Force to analyze existing State employee training programs to assure that they are up-to-date, and that remnants of past traditional thinking do not impair the ability of our workers, particularly women, to compete successfully for advancement.

(more)

cc
→ I am also issuing an executive directive in support of the newly-expanded bridge program, which will enable workers to escape from dead-end jobs and encourage them to move into increasingly responsible positions. This program was developed by my Office of Employee Relations and the Civil Service Employees Association and will receive greater exposure through my directive. The dates for the bridge examinations will be announced soon.

All of these measures are positive steps towards achieving genuine equality for women. But as you know only too well, there is more to be done.

I am happy to see so many involved in the planning and investigation that are so vital to our future progress. I am sure that your work will contribute to our effort here in New York State, and I am confident that your conference will be a most fruitful one.

Thank you very much.

On 1978[#] Governor Carey appointed
to the Domestic Violence
Task Force.

(get names, if possible)

News from the WOMEN'S DIVISION

1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York City 10019

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

(212) 977-2700

Mary Burke Nicholas, Director

Annette Samuels
Associate Director for Public Information

FOR RELEASE: June 16, 1979

~~TESTIMONY FILED ON BEHALF OF THE WOMEN'S DIVISION, STATE OF NEW YORK~~

*calls for closer look at proposed
Communications Legislation*

ON JUNE 16th

The Women's Division of the Governor's Office of the State of New York wishes to entered
its testimony at the public hearing held by the New York Citizens Committee for Responsible
Media on June 16th and to state its view of the proposed Congressional rewriting of the
Federal Communications Act of 1934.

*The Division's testimony made the
following points:*

1. Under the present statute, the FCC has adopted rules prohibiting discrimination
in employment and requiring affirmative action programs. H.R. 3333 appears to
remove EEO enforcement for radio immediately and for television after ten years.
2. Under the present statute licenses are issued for three-year terms. H.R. 3333
would license radio and alternately television for an indefinite period of time,
thereby removing from the station any pressure or incentive to "clean up its act"
in order to win renewal.
3. Under the present statute comparative hearings are required to determine which
applicant would better serve the public interest. H.R. 3333 would provide a
random selection from among all qualified applicants with minority applicants
having two applicants in the random selection process. The process is doubtful
constitutionally and the random process in itself would not seem to serve best
the public interest.

News from the WOMEN'S DIVISION



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York City 10019

(212) 977-2700

PAGE 2...

Mary Burke Nicholas, Director

Annette Samuels
Associate Director for Public Information

FOR RELEASE: June 16, 1979

4. Under the present statute the Fairness Doctrine requires coverage of controversial issues of public importance and reasonable opportunity for presenting opposing issues. H.R. 3333 would repeal the Doctrine immediately for radio and in ten years for television, cutting off an important arena of public debate of sensitive issues.

We recognize the long overdue need for reconsideration and revision of the Communications Law. However, the Women's Division holds that such Legislation should reflect not only consideration of changing technology but the effects on public interest and in particular effects on newly-won gains by women and minorities.

Until such time as a way is found to insure accountability to the public interest and access of the Communications Media for all interest groups, the Women's Division must join in support of minorities, consumers and professional groups opposing passage of H.R. 3333 as it stands.

####

Memorandum



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

- Can take as long as six months -

1- How long does it take to locate absent parents?

Information Service in Albany -

- Mel Kelessey - Director
518. 474 - 9081

Bill Angelon - Assistant
Director 678. 6510

How many families on ADC? -

~~What percent of the consist of ab~~

99% female headed families
^{USUALLY}

— v v Court orders are ignored.

58 Counties and N.Y.C. 75% Fed.

August 1975 (went into

Title 4 Sec. D. of S.S. Act.

re-intervene

Memorandum



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

For Further Information

for women not on Public
Assistance:

Contact ^{Loise} DSS office for ^{of Child Support}
a brochure <sub>Enforce
ment</sub>

{ Paul Lucier -
Information
143-8-474-9516 }

Dore Max -

(Steve Mariello)



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

MEMORANDUM

March 5, 1979

To: Participants in February 22nd Meeting on Child Support Enforcement

From: Ida Schmertz

Subject:

Thank you for contributing to such a successful meeting, and a particular note of appreciation to Howard Goldfinger and Dorothy Loeb for their cogent briefing on the operation of the Child Support Enforcement Program.

Enclosed are copies of the Child Support Enforcement Program report, an excellent program summary and phone and addresses of persons invited to the meeting.

At the close of the meeting participants agreed:

- 1) to help publicize the Child Support Enforcement program;
- 2) to review its operation in the field and send comments to Howard Goldfinger;
- 3) to circulate to each other and to the Office of Child Support Enforcement for their reaction, recommendations for legislation or administrative action which could improve enforcement of child support orders.

IS:btw
Enclosures

Newsletter

ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT AND ALIMONY PAYMENTS
FEBRUARY 22, 1979

Howard Goldfinger, Director
New York State Office of Child Support
40 North Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12243
(518) 474-9081 (212) 678-6510

* *Call*

Dorothy Loeb, Assistant Director
New York State Office of Child Support
40 North Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12243
(518) 474-9270 (212) 678-2452/2472

Ida Schmertz
Office of the Governor
Women's Division - 10th Floor
1350 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019
(212) 977-5741

Libby Antarsh
Office of the Governor
Women's Division - 10th Floor
1350 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

INVITED, BUT COULD NOT ATTEND

Eleanor Alter, Esq.
New York County Lawyers Association
40 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 267-6646

Ms. Jeni Krause
National Organization for Women
84 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011
(212) 989-7230

Lester Wallman, Esq.
Wallman & Kramer
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New York, New York 10016
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Marjory D. Fields
Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. B
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(212) 855-8029

ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT AND ALIMONY PAYMENTS
FEBRUARY 22, 1979

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Noreen Connell
National Organization for Women
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250 Broadway Room 1412
New York, New York 10007
(212) 566-3830

Barbara Reach
Commission on the Status of Women
250 Broadway Room 1412
New York, New York 10007



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 1979

*for the newsletter
"Women
New York"*

To: Mary Burke Nicholas, Annette Samuels

From: Ida Schmertz *IS*
Libby Antarsh

Subject:

At our meeting on enforcement of court orders for child support and alimony payments, we were most impressed with the presentation of Howard Goldfinger, Director of the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Department of Social Services.

The services which this office provides receive very little publicity. I think we should consider doing a feature in an upcoming issue of the newsletter on this program.

For example, the Office of Child Support Enforcement acts as a petitioner for Aide to Dependent Children (ADC) women in court. They also provide family locator services, legal services and investigative services for ADC and non ADC women. The program is a relatively new one. Its record of success is excellent, but there is room for improvement. The Office is eager to work with constituent women, the courts, federal government agencies and the legislature in order to make this program as effective as possible.

Bringing the OCSE and the services it provides to the attention of the public would be a real service on the part of the Women's Division and could help prepare the way for potential improvements in this relatively new program.

ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT AND ALIMONY PAYMENTS
FEBRUARY 22, 1979

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STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

MEMORANDUM

March 5, 1979

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From: Ida Schmertz

Subject:

Thank you for contributing to such a successful meeting, and a particular note of appreciation to Howard Goldfinger and Dorothy Loeb for their cogent briefing on the operation of the Child Support Enforcement Program.

Enclosed are copies of the Child Support Enforcement Program report, an excellent program summary and phone and addresses of persons invited to the meeting.

At the close of the meeting participants agreed:

- 1) to help publicize the Child Support Enforcement program;
- 2) to review its operation in the field and send comments to Howard Goldfinger;
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IS:btw
Enclosures

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

A PROGRAM SUMMARY

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

ADC

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act requires states to develop independent units responsible for carrying out the Child Support Enforcement Program. In New York State, as in most other States, this unit, the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), is located in the Department of Social Services (DSS). The mandate of the Child Support Enforcement program (hereafter referred to as IV-D) is the location of absent parents and the collection of support payments from such parents. While any citizen has access to the program's child support enforcement services, the primary focus is on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC). As a condition of eligibility for ADC, these recipients must assign their support rights to the State and Social Services Department and cooperate in the effort to obtain child support.

A primary purpose of the IV-D program is to reduce the cost of ADC. Child support collections obtained through the IV-D program benefit Federal, State and local governments by reimbursing the costs of ADC payments. Local governments benefit additionally by retaining from the Federal share of reimbursement, 15 percent of each collection. Although the location process is usually in direct control of the IV-D agency, the support process is not. In New York State, a legally enforceable support obligation is established by Order of Court. Thus, the maximum amount of child support which can be collected is based on the amount of the child support order issued by Family Court and the amount of arrears continued by the Court.

m j

Federal law requires that all ADC cases in which eligibility is based on the absence of a parent from the home assign support rights and be referred from the local IV-A agency to the local IV-D agency. New York State has 58 districts that locally administer their IV-D program. Assigned support rights must be enforced in a Family Court proceeding (pursuant to Family Court Act, Article 4) in which a fair and reasonable amount of child support is fixed by the court.

Where the location of the absent parent is not known, the local IV-D unit must pursue local sources as to the parents' whereabouts. A referral is also made to the PLS to obtain state level location information. PLS may, in turn, solicit the Federal PLS for federal level location data.

When the location of the absent parent is known or determined, the local IV-D unit attempts to obtain an acknowledgement of paternity, where appropriate, and a voluntary agreement for support. The amount of the support obligation is calculated by use of a support formula developed by DSS, which contemplates, among other factors in accordance with New York State law, the absent parent's ability to support and the needs of the deserted family. Financial information regarding an absent parent may be obtained through several sources, including the New York State Wage Reporting System and the Internal Revenue Service. Data obtained from IRS may not be brought into court. The district must obtain outside verification of data obtained by IRS.

Whether or not the absent parent has entered into a support agreement DSS will petition the court for an amount of support within the formula range. It is the Family Court Judge who makes the decision as to the amount of support which will be legally owed i.e. the support obligation. *ny j.*

Effective January 1, 1979, virtually all support orders are supposed to provide for an automatic income deduction upon the failure of the respondent to make a specified number of child support payments as set forth in the order. This enforcement tool is expected to be valuable in ensuring the ongoing collection of child support.

Once a child support order is obtained, monies are collected by the local Support Collection Unit (SCU). The SCU is a unit within the local Department of Social Services responsible for collection and monitoring child support payments for all orders made payable "through the SCU" by the court. This includes welfare and non-welfare cases. The SCU sends delinquency notices when support payments are missed and identifies when the specified number of payments are missed, as set out in the support order.

The local IV-D unit is required to distribute child support collections in accordance with federal mandate, and report the amount of collection in a particular case to the IV-A unit. That unit must then determine if such payment makes the family ineligible for continued public assistance.

The IV-D unit is also responsible for enforcing support orders. In addition to income deduction orders, the CSEU utilizes liens, judgements and other innovative and traditional remedies. A new method of enforcement made available by Title IV-D legislation is the collection of child support arrearages through the Internal Revenue Service. New York State is a pioneer in using the IRS for a major collection effort.

m j.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES - NON ADC

Financial support is a child's right-and a parent's responsibility. But some parents try to avoid this responsibility and their children are forced to rely on public assistance or the kindness of friends and relatives for the necessities of life.

To reduce the impact of a missing parent on a family with dependent children, local social services departments, the New York State Department of Social Services and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare have developed a program of Child Support Services under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.

This program is designed to help families find missing parents and obtain child support. It also can be used to locate the father of a child born out-of-wedlock, establish paternity and obtain support for the child. The support which may be obtained under the program can help a family to remain financially independent or reduce their dependence on public assistance.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

Child Support Services include:

The Parent Locator Service: This is an investigation and search of state and, if necessary, federal agency files, including those of the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration and Department of Defense. A thorough search for a missing parent may take as long as six to eight months. When the search is completed, a report of the results-positive or negative-is sent to the client. A field investigation can be conducted if necessary.

- 5 -

Establishment of Support Obligation and Paternity: Once the individual is located, the local social services department may help the client prepare and file appropriate support petitions or a paternity petition. Legal representation can be provided if necessary and requested. These actions can even be taken against parents living outside of New York State.

Collections and Enforcement: The client may request that the local social services department serve as collector of child support payments through the support collection unit. The department will monitor payments and, upon request, enforce any court-ordered support. Legal representation can be provided if necessary and requested.

These services and any information obtained through them cannot be used to collect bills, prosecute law suits, pursue alimony or for any effort not directly related to child support.

Child Support Services are available to:

A parent of a dependent child, including step and adoptive parents

A legal guardian of a dependent child

A relative with custody of a dependent child

A legal representative with power of attorney or written authorization from one of the above

A private or public agency or institution responsible for the child

An emancipated minor

A non-legally responsible relative who applies for the service on behalf of a child in his or her custody who has been deserted or abandoned, when a person legally responsible for that child has not yet been named or found.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Obtain an application form from the local social services department and fill out the top part. Do not sign it. The application must be signed, in person, at the social services office.
2. Go to the local social services department with:
 - Proof of identity, such as a driver's license
 - Any information which would be useful in locating a missing parent and obtaining child support, including the person's full name, date of birth, social security number, occupation, etc.
 - Documents from previous efforts to obtain child support such as support petitions and court orders and other information relating to the situation
 - Photocopies of documents concerning the relationship of the applicant to the child or children in need of support, such as birth certificates, income tax forms, religious records which show identity and/or relationship, school records, copies of any court order or agreement listing the children or any other documents which may identify the children

All photocopies should be made before application since the local social services department may wish to keep any or all documents submitted. Information given by the applicant is confidential and can only be used in providing the services requested.

An application cannot be processed until the applicant signs a statement that the request is being made for purposes directly related to child support and that all information is true and accurate. This statement is a part of the application form and must be signed in the presence of a social services staff member.

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The applicant must furnish proof of his or her identity and be prepared to demonstrate eligibility for the service.

Child support services are free unless the individual specifically requests a field investigation or legal services. These special services are provided only if necessary and their costs will be collected from forthcoming support payments. To obtain these services, the applicant must sign a "Right to Recovery" agreement which allows the social services department to make these collections. Refusal to sign will make the applicant ineligible for these two services.

THE BENEFITS

Child Support Services are for both parent and child. For the parent, these services can mean greater financial independence or a reduced need for public assistance. For the child, they can mean economic security.

There is an added benefit for children born out-of-wedlock. By acknowledging paternity, the father also recognizes the child's right to inherit from him or to claim the benefits of his social security, health or life insurance.

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