

## **Governor Rell: State Enforcement Collects Nearly \$310 Million in Child Support**

*Most Goes to Middle-Class, Working Families, FY10 Records Show*

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that state and judicial agencies collected nearly \$310 million in court-ordered child support last fiscal year, most of which went to assist children in middle-class, working families.

Connecticut's child support enforcement program sent over \$210.5 million in parental support to children whose families are not receiving state cash assistance benefits. Another \$18.1 million went to children living out of state.

"Child support is a basic and essential right for children," Governor Rell said. "It is significant that 84 percent of all collections for children living in Connecticut went directly to families receiving our help getting their child support but who are not connected to the public welfare system. These payments help support children in working, middle-class families who are getting by in this economy without having to rely on cash assistance. Often, child support can mean the difference between making ends meet and going on welfare."

At the same time, state taxpayers benefited from approximately \$17.7 million in child support collected from parents of Connecticut children receiving Temporary Family Assistance. Most of this amount goes back to the state as reimbursement for public assistance benefits. Another \$40.6 million was collected on past-due amounts and kept by the state in lieu of current or past public assistance benefits.

"While the subject of child support can sometimes be a highly emotional issue, the fact remains that children need the financial support of both parents," Governor Rell said. "The professionals working in child support enforcement are dedicated to this goal and I am proud of their efforts."

"I also appreciate the non-custodial parents who fulfill their responsibilities in both financial and emotional support of their children," the Governor said. "It is important to acknowledge and commend the efforts of so many men and women who do the best they possibly can for their children. Parents who do the right thing for their children are also doing the right thing for themselves."

The chief participating agencies in the child support program include the Department of Social Services; the Judicial Branch's Support Enforcement Services; and the Attorney General's Office. The main services are location of noncustodial parents; establishment of paternity and financial and medical support orders; and collection, enforcement and distribution of support.

Most child support payments are sent to families' bank accounts electronically, rather than by more costly paper checks sent through the mail.

Consumer information is available by phone at (800) 228-KIDS or online: [www.ct.gov/dss](http://www.ct.gov/dss) (click on Families with Children and Child Support Resource Center) or [www.jud.ct.gov/childsupport](http://www.jud.ct.gov/childsupport).