

Philadelphia Family Court
Child Support Enforcement Program

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Mary Lou Baker
Deputy Court Administrator
215-686-9306

www.phillychildsupport.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia Family Court Announces Child Support Amnesty 2003 Program

PHILADELPHIA, May 16, 2003 – Administrative Judge Myrna P. Field announced today that the Family Court will be holding a Child Support Amnesty program from Monday June 16th through Thursday July 3rd, 2003, in order to provide an opportunity for parents to re-establish support payments.

Parents who owe child support payments or have an outstanding bench warrant now have an opportunity to resolve their past due support obligations without fear of being arrested during Amnesty 2003.

Amnesty 2003 notices will be mailed to parents who have failed to obey a court order to pay support or have a warrant for their arrest. The notice assures delinquent payers that they can avoid arrest, incarceration, and further legal penalties by reporting in person to the Philadelphia Family Court's Domestic Relations Division, to make payment arrangements. Amnesty 2003 will be conducted from June 16, 2003 to July 3, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at 34 South 11th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107. Parents reporting to court are required to bring their Amnesty 2003 Notice, the name and address of their employer or other income source, verification of their health care coverage, and a good faith payment on their past due child support. Job placement services will be provided to unemployed parents. Parents who do not receive a notice can also walk-in to the Courthouse during the dates and times noted above.

Failure to take advantage of this opportunity may result in the arrest of delinquent parents which could lead to the imposition of fines or their incarceration for up to six months. The names of parents who fail to take advantage of Amnesty 2003 may be published in newspapers and other media venues. Their professional license and driver's license may be suspended. Their passport may be denied. Their State and Federal income tax refunds may be intercepted, their past due support may be reported to credit bureaus, and reduced to a judgment.

Don't allow this to happen, report to the Domestic Relations office located at: 34 South 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. The public is encouraged to report helpful information regarding parents by calling the Bench Warrant Unit Tip Line at (215) 686-2977. For more information about Amnesty 2003, please call (215) 686-4176 or visit www.phillychildsupport.com.

Honorable Myrna P. Field, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division