



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **DES Child Support Enforcement Encourages Parental Involvement**

### **Amnesty, fee cuts offered for becoming an active participant**

PHOENIX – The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) knows how important it is to contribute to your child's future and step up to your responsibilities as a parent by meeting your financial obligations. The first step to becoming an active and involved father is establishing paternity.

Therefore, the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) is encouraging fee reductions to non-custodial parents in making a payment or establishing paternity, and an amnesty period to those who have a court-ordered financial obligation to a child.

DCSE is offering the following encouragements to parents who are not meeting their obligations to their children. **From February 29 through March 9, 2012**, parents are encouraged to do the following:

- **Establish Paternity:** The first 100 fathers who contact a local DES Child Support Office during this period may have the fee waived for their paternity tests. The genetic testing fee, which would be about \$100 per case, will be waived for the first 100 fathers during this period. Call (602) 771-8000 or visit [www.azdes.gov/dcse](http://www.azdes.gov/dcse) for available dates and locations.
- **Make a Payment:** If you make an extra \$100 payment on a local child support case, you may qualify for up to \$100 in waivers of child support payment processing fees. The payment must be \$100 more than the payment made in January 2012. Make the payment at a local office, by phone (866) 562-0140, or via web at <https://www.velocitypayment.com/vbills/bankofamerica/azdes/login.go>.
- **Consult with a Caseworker:** Visit a local office to discuss your situation with a caseworker without fear of arrest, regardless of the case status.

Too many Arizona children are living in poverty. When separated parents do not claim their children or provide for them financially, the child is placed at risk of not having their basic needs met. It may also put the custodial parent at risk of needing government assistance. Children benefit from the legal and emotional relationship with their father.

Research has shown that non-custodial parents who are involved financially in the lives of their children by paying child support are also more likely to be involved in other aspects as well, such as school or extra-curricular activities. Children want and need parents to be active in their lives.

For more information on fee reductions, establishing paternity or to speak with a caseworker, please contact the child support program at **(602) 252-4045** or **(800) 882-4151** (toll free), or visit the child support website at <https://www.azdes.gov>.

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