



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: PAY YOUR CHILD SUPPORT

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

WITH THE START OF THE NEW Year, many of us assess our past and plan for the future. By paying child support, you are setting a good example for your children and helping to secure their future.

Thank you to those parents who paid their child support in full and on time during 2007. Your faithfulness will provide endless benefits to your children. Parents who regularly pay their child support demonstrate that they are concerned for their children's welfare.

It is common knowledge that child support payments cover a child's basic needs, such as food, shelter and clothing. However, the benefits extend beyond the financial security that each payment provides. Research shows that children of parents who pay their child support have fewer behavior problems, make better grades, and stay in school

longer than children who do not receive regular support.

Parents who pay child support are also more likely to "be there" emotionally for their children and take an active role in their upbringing. Children with two involved and caring parents are more confident, more likely to exercise self-control, and less likely to engage in risky behaviors that result in drug usage and early pregnancies.

For the state fiscal year that ended Aug. 31, my office collected a record \$2.3 billion in child support, topping the previous year's total by \$243 million. This phenomenal achievement was made possible by thousands of Texas parents who faithfully pay court-ordered child support every month without reminders.

For parents who have missed payments, the Attorney General's Office encourages you to renew your

commitment in the New Year to provide for your children and pay your child support. Please show your children that you care about their welfare by making regular child support payments throughout 2008.

To help parents collect child support, the Attorney General's Office accepts applications from mothers, fathers and other individuals who request our services. Applications can be obtained by visiting Child Support Interactive on the main Attorney General website at www.oag.state.tx.us or by calling our 24-hour voice response system at (800) 252-8014. Parents who receive financial assistance through the Health and Human Services Commission automatically receive child support services.

The Office of the Attorney General wishes you and your family all the best for a healthy and happy 2008!

POINTS TO REMEMBER



CHILD SUPPORT

Children Who Receive Child Support:

- Have better health and nutrition
- Have fewer behavior problems
- Make better grades

The Attorney General will help you:

- Locate a noncustodial parent;
- Establish your child's paternity;
- Establish and enforce child support orders;
- Review and adjust child support payments;
- Collect and distribute child support payments.

Apply for Child Support Services by:

- Visiting Child Support Interactive on the main Attorney General website:
www.oag.state.tx.us
- Calling the 24-hour voice response system at **(800) 252-8014**

Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's website at **www.oag.state.tx.us**.



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