

CSSD Policy

Subject:	<b>Management of Cases on the Fathering Court Calendar</b>	Number:	<b>2010-7</b>
Approval Date:		Pages:	
Approved by:	<b>Benidia A. Rice, Director</b>	Revision	<b>Revision-#1</b>

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide procedures and guidance on the preparation and managing of support cases assigned on the Fathering Court calendar. The policy also details the guidelines for the Fathering Court Fresh Start Program.
  
- II. **AGENCY IMPACT:** This policy impacts the Policy, Outreach and Training Section, Enforcement, First Response, Audit and Program Management, Wage Withholding Units and the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor File Room.
  
- III. **DEFINITIONS:**
  - (a) Fathering Court Initiative Program (FCI) – The Fathering Court is a specialty court within the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The purpose of the Fathering Court is to enable ex-offenders to become reunited with their families and maintain their child support obligations by providing them with gainful employment and job readiness training.
  - (b) Fathering Court Fresh Start Program – The Fathering Court Fresh Start Program affords participants to get 25% of their TANF arrears forgiven if they make 6 non-consecutive payments and graduated from the FCI program.
  
- IV. **REFERENCES:** The references in the policy include: 42 U.S.C. 654, State Plan for Child and Spousal Support, 42 U.S.C. 666, Requirement of Statutorily Prescribed Procedures to Improve Effectiveness of Child Support Enforcement, 45 CFR 302.31, Establishing Paternity and Securing Support, 45 CFR 302.80, Medical Support Enforcement; D.C. Official Code § 11-1101, Jurisdiction of the Family Court, §16-916.01 Child Support Guideline, §46-204, Amendment of Order Establishing Alimony, Child Support, or Maintenance; Award as Money Judgment, §46-205, Contents of Order; DC Superior Court General Family and Domestic Relations Rules (2010); Memorandum of Understanding between DC Superior Court and the Georgia Avenue Collaborative.
  
- V. **INQUIRIES:** For further inquiries about these procedures, please contact the the Policy, Outreach and Training Section; (202) 724-2131; and Wage Withholding Unit, (202) 724-1532 ; Audit and Program Management Unit (202) 724-2431; Enforcement Unit, (202) 724-2316; the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor File Room at (202) 741-8881.

- VI. **POLICY**: The Fathering Court Initiative is a program designed to assist non-custodial parents with tools to become financially and emotionally responsible for their children. The program will be administrated through the partnership of Family Court of DC Superior Court, the Department of Employment Services, a contracted employment service agency, a District collaborative agency and the Child Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Office of the Attorney General.

Once accepted into the FCI, the assigned Assistant Attorney General will monitor compliance of the court order and seek enforcement activities, when appropriate. The assigned Assistant Attorney General or its designee will maintain the legal case file, prepare for each hearing, conduct searches on the District of Columbia Child Support Enforcement System (DCCSES) and the A Client Eligibility Determination System (ACEDES), update DCCSES, make representations on behalf of the District of Columbia in FC hearings, and communicate with the FCI team members.

CSSD offers the Fathering Court Fresh Start Program to all Fathering Court participants who have made 6 non-consecutive payments and have graduated from the FCI. Once the FCI participants satisfy the Fathering Court Fresh Start Program, he/she will be eligible for the standard CSSD Fresh Start Program.