# FAMILY SUPPORT F O R U M

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association

Vol. 10 FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1998 No. 1

#### Lyons Appointed DCSE Director; Reorganization Underway

by Laura Otten Grahek

On February 9, 1998, Illinois Department of Public Aid Director Joan Walters announced the appointment of Robert Lyons as Administrator of the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE). Lyons replaces Dianna Durham-McLoud, who has assumed a position as Special Assistant to the Director for child support enforcement, working on federal issues.

Lyons has served as Deputy Administrator of DCSE since March, 1997. Prior to joining DCSE Lyons had worked as Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for ten years, the last four as director of its Child Support Enforcement Division. A 1987 graduate of the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Lyons is believed to be the first licensed attorney to head up Illinois' IV-D program on a full-time basis.

Since his appointment as Administrator, Lyons has announced the formation of seven Transition Teams to address problems in the way IV-D services are being provided. Their goal is to resolve any outstanding issues which hinder DCSE from attaining its goal of assisting every Illinois family in need of child support in an efficient and courteous manner. These teams will work statewide with all child support partners to implement the necessary reforms to achieve the Division's goals. The teams' mandate is to begin implementation by July 1, 1998.

Among the Transition Team issues and their team leaders are:

- Queue (client interview scheduling) Marilyn Okon:
- Operational Teams/Define, eliminate backlog -Anne Jeskey;
- Central Mail Sort Delinda Chapman;
- Administrative Process Laura Otten Grahek;
- Facility Security John Rogers;
- Tax Intercept Program Martin Sutherland;
- Payment Processing Pam Doyle.

In addition to these internal studies, DCSE is enlisting the services of the Office of Strategic Business Initiatives from the University of Illinois, Champaign, to study DCSE's customer services. OSBI Team mem-

bers have been encouraged to contact Transition Team leaders, Child Support Advisory Committee members and other partners in the child support effort to assist them in their study.

Additionally Lyons has revamped DCSE's organizational structure to provide for streamlined operation of the division's responsibilities. A whole level of middle-management positions has already been eliminated, he reports. And funds are being sought to add up to 30 new staff positions at the front-lines.

"The IV-D child support program, both nationally and in Illinois, is undergoing rapid change," Lyons said. "Welfare reform has made the collection of child support an essential part of a family's self sufficiency. We must not fail our children by ignoring our obligation to be ever vigilant to changes in the law. All parties involved in the IV-D program must rededicate themselves to working as one system designed to aid the families of Illinois."

It's a big job, but from all accounts, Bob Lyons has already demonstrated the dedication and initiative to take DCSE into the next millennium. Congratulations and best wishes to Bob and all the Child Support partners throughout the state.

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#### FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM

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The FORUM is published four times per year - in March, June, August (the conference preview issue), and December.

Items for publication are needed by the 8th of the month.

News items and other articles of interest to Illinois family support practitioners are eagerly sought.

Contact the Editor for details.

Please Contribute - its YOUR Newsletter!

# From the Statehouse . . .

### . . . LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following is a summary of some of the new bills relevant to family support enforcement introduced in the Illinois Legislature so far in 1998 and their respective sponsors. For specifics reference should be made to the bill itself.

by Thomas P. Sweeney

#### H.B. 2851 Rep. Durkin

Amends §§ 3-2-2 and 3-3-7 of the Unified Code of Corrections to require the Dept. of Corrections to require as a condition of diversion (§3-2-2), and the Prisoner Review Board to require as a condition of Parole or Mandatory Supervised Release (§ 3-3-7), that each participant make timely payments of financial support as required by any child support order entered pursuant to the Public Aid code, the IMDMA, the Non-Support of Spouse and Children Act, URESA, UIFSA or the Parentage Act; similarly amends §§ 5-6-3 and 5-6-3.1 of the Code of Corrections to require as a condition of Probation or Conditional Discharge (§ 5-6-3) or of Court Supervision (§ 5-6-3.1), timely payments of ordered support, and to permit as a requirement the support of dependents not covered by a support order.

#### H.B. 2838 Rep. Ronen

Amends § 4-1.7 of the Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/4-1.7) to require IDPA to develop and implement by rule at least two pilot projects, one in Cook County and the other in another county, to test the effects in terms of parental cooperation with the child support program, collections of child support, and non-custodial patents' involvement in the lives of their children, of paying to families receiving cash assistance under Article IV either (1) two-thirds of the monthly child support collected on behalf of each member of the assistance unit or (2) the first \$50 paid as monthly support on each judicial or administrative support order, whichever is

greater; provides the support "passed through" shall not affect the family's eligibility for assistance; provides the project shall be conducted for a period of not less than 3 years, with a report to the General Assembly within six months after the conclusion of the projects.

#### H.B. 2839 Rep. Ronen

Amends § 4-1.7 of the Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/4-1.7) to require pass through to financial assistance recipients the first \$50 of child support received each month pursuant to court or administrative order.

#### H.B. 3048 Rep. Durkin

Creates the Income Withholding for Support Act; consolidates into one new act provisions relating to withholding of income to pay orders for support that are currently found in numerous other Acts in the statutes; amends those acts, the Collection Agency Act, and UIFSA to make conforming changes in cross-references; includes technical corrections, but makes no substantive change in the law. Would become effective 1-1-99.

#### H.B. 3189 Rep. Durkin

Adds a new § 2 to the Police Search Cost Recovery Act (740 ILCS 125/2) to provide that if a governmental unit of this state has expended resources in a search for a

(Cont'd. on page 4)

#### Attorney General Continues to Urge Transfer of IV-D Program

Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan is renewing his effort to streamline and improve the state's child support collection system.

In a letter sent to state senators on March 4, 1998, Ryan urged them to support House Bill 2359, which would transfer the administration of child support in Illinois to the Attorney General's office. The bill had strong bi-partisan support in the House last fall when it passed 113-2.

Ryan noted in the letter that in addition to wide support in the House, the legislation is supported by an overwhelming number of State's Attorneys and Circuit Court Clerks in Illinois. Also, the bill is supported by the national advocacy group ACES.

"The collection of child support is one of the most important issues facing Illinois families," Ryan said. "When deadbeat dads ignore their moral and financial obligations, children suffer. To keep children out of poverty and mothers off welfare, we need a child support system that operates more effectively."

(Cont'd. on page 15)

("Legislative Up-date," cont'd. from page 3)

person who owes a duty to make child support or maintenance payments under a court or administrative order, and the court determines that the person had notice of the order and willfully refused to comply, then the court shall order the person to pay to each such governmental unit all of that unit's expenses reasonably incurred in searching for the person and in bringing the enforcement action; expenses subject to reimbursement include reasonable attorney's fees, investigatory expenses, litigation expenses and court costs.

#### H.B. 3411 Rep. Saviano

Amends § 1 of the Non-Support of Spouse and Children Act (750 ILCS 15/1) to provide that a person found guilty of criminal non-support under this section may also be sentenced to participate in a supervised work program administered by IDPA through contract; provides IDPA may contract with any entity to operate such a program, including a County Sheriff's department. The components of the program include, but are not limited to supervised weekend and holiday public service work, requiring participants to wear brightly colored uniforms that readily identify them as persons who have failed to comply with a support obligation. Also amends § 10-16 of the Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/10-16), § 505 of the IMDMA (750 ILCS 5/505), and § 15 of the Parentage Act of 1984 (750 ILCS 45/15) to authorize prosecution and imposition of the supervised work program under § 1 of the Non-Support of Spouse and Children Act as additional penalties for violations of those sections.

#### H.B. 3413 Rep. Saviano

Adds and amends various sections in different ways:

1) Adds new § 10-10.4 to the Public Aid Code,
new § 505.3 to the IMDMA, and new § 12.2 to the
Non-Support of Spouse and Children Act to define
under what conditions a transfer of property by a
support obligor is fraudulent as to an obligee, and to
authorize remedies that can be obtained by a State's
Attorney against a child support obligor for such a
transfer, including avoidance of the transfer, attachment
against the asset transferred or other property of the
transferee, injunction against further disposition of the
asset transferred or other property or appointment of a
receiver to take charge of the asset transferred or other
property of the transferee.

2) Adds new § 714 to the IMDMA providing that any person who willfully defaults on an order for child support issued by an Illinois court or authorized administrative proceeding may be subject to summary criminal contempt proceedings, and extending authorization to suspend licenses, including driver's licenses and recreational licenses, of individuals owing overdue support or failing, after notice, to comply with subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings; this section applies to support orders entered under the Public Aid Code as well as under other statutes.

- 3) Adds new § 715 to the IMDMA providing that IDPA, State's Attorneys or any other appropriate state official may request and shall receive from employers, labor unions, telephone and utility companies location information concerning putative fathers and noncustodial parents (including his whereabouts, his employer and his income or other compensation) for the purpose of establishing a child's paternity or establishing, enforcing or modifying a child support obligation.
- 4) Amends § 1 of the Non-Support of Spouse and Children Act to provide that, in addition to any other penalties imposed for violation of this section (criminal non-support), the court shall sentence the offender to service in a work alternative program administered by the sheriff, requiring the offender to obtain or retain employment and participate in a work alternative program administered by the sheriff during nonworking hours.
- 5) Amends § 318 of UIFSA (750 ILCS 22/318 Assistance with discovery) to authorize a tribunal of this state, at the request of a tribunal of another state, to issue or direct issuance of a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum requiring appearance at a deposition or before a tribunal to answer questions or produce documents or other items to obtain information regarding the person's assets, income and ability to pay a support order or judgment entered in the other state; authorizes a tribunal in this state to request the same services from the tribunal of another state.

#### H.B. 3415 Rep. Saviano

Amends §§ 3-408 and 6-103 of the Illinois Vehicle Code to provide that the Secretary of State shall refuse registration or transfer of registration of titles (§ 3-408) or issuance of a driver's license or permit (§ 6-103) to any person who "is delinquent in court ordered child support payments or has been adjudicated in arrears and been found in contempt of court for failure to pay the support."

#### H.B. 3417 Rep. Saviano

Adds new § 4.5 to the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act (820 ILCS 115/4.5) to require that employers pay their employees in the form of a check or other negotiable instrument payable to the employee or by direct deposit into the employee's account in a financial institution; prohibits payment of wages "in currency;" provides that violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor; excuses from application of this section payments to workers who are paid daily and payments to employees whose weekly net pay is less than \$100.

#### H.B. 3419 Rep. Saviano

Adds new § 714 to the IMDMA to provide that "any person who without good cause defaults on an order for child support *issued by an Illinois Court* for a period of 2 months or longer is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor;" provides that in addition to any other sentence that may be imposed a court *shall* order any

(Cont'd. on page 14)

#### From the IDPA ...

#### ...ILLINOIS IV-D UPDATE

(From the Office of the Administrator, Illinois Department of Public Aid, Division of Child Support Enforcement)

#### 23 Community Representatives Named to Expanded Child Support Advisory Committee

On February 10, 1998, Illinois Department of Public Aid Director Joan Walters announced the appointment of 23 persons to advise the agency on how to strengthen its child support enforcement and collection program.

"The membership of the Child Support Advisory Committee represents a diverse background of individuals who share a commitment to help families receive the child support they deserve. The members come from advocacy groups, charities, businesses, law firms and a cross section of public officials," Walters said.

"The department looks to each and every member for advice and counsel on how the agency can collect more child support to help families survive and thrive. The committee has been expanded from the original nine members to broaden the perspectives and to provide a variety of recommendations to make the child support system better."

Named Chairman of the committee is Jerome Stermer, President of Voices for Illinois Children, Chicago. Vice-Chairman is the Hon. Michael Weber, Circuit Judge for the 4th Judicial Circuit, Newton.

Bob Lyons, the newly appointed Administrator of IDPA's Division of Child Support Enforcement, said, "The advisory committee will examine specific ways to increase paternity establishments, child support orders, income withholding orders and collections."

The following DCSE staff have been assigned to assist the committee members studying specific issues:

- Asministrative Process/Guidelines Robert Carbine;
- Central Payment Disbursement/KIDS Anne Jeskey:
- Employer Issues Bill Bobzien;
- Non-Custodial Parents Issues Joseph Mason.

Members of the advisory committee serve oneyear terms without compensation.

#### 1998-99 Child Support Advisory Committee Members

Dan Byars, Manager of Social Work Services, Centegra Health Systems, Memorial Medical Center, Woodstock:

State Senator Earlean Collins, Chicago\*;

Mary T. Donoghue, Supervisor, Child Support Enforcement Division, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Chicago;

Linda S. Frank, Champaign County Circuit Clerk, Urbana;

William R. Haine, Madison County State's Attorney, Edwardsville;

State Representative Carolyn Krause, Mt. Prospect;

Katherine M. Lawrence, Associate Director of Government Affairs, Illinois Manufacturer's Association, Springfield;

Tashema Lindsey, Illinois Director, ACES, Chicago;

Judge Gay-Lloyd Lott, Supervising Judge, Cook County Expedited Hearing Division, Chicago;

Madalyn Maxwell, Chief, Public Aid Bureau, Attorney General's Office, Springfield;

Gary McCants, Senior Director, State Government Affairs, Illinois Bankers Association, Springfield;

Julie Mills, Douglas County Circuit Clerk, Tuscola;

Walter H. Ousley, Division Manager, Catholic Charities, Chicago\*;

Y. Jacqueline Perkins, attorney, Arlington Heights\*;

State Senator Christine Radogno, LaGrange;

Wayne L. Salter, Executive Director, Paternal Involvement Project, Chicago\*;

Margo E. Schreiber, Administrator, DuPage County Human Services, Wheaton;

Deborah Seyller, Kane County Circuit Clerk, Geneva;

Jerry Stermer, President of Voices for Illinois Children, Chicago\*;

Greg Sullivan, Executive Director, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, Sherman;

Laurie Thomson, Assistant to the Director, Cook County Hospital, Chicago;

Chief Judge Michael R. Weber, 4th Judicial Circuit Court, Newton\*;

Nancy D. Woodward, Acting Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Springfield.

(\*Reappointed members.)

# (More Illinois IV-D Up-date on page 6)

("Illinois IV-D Up-date," cont'd. from page 5)

#### IDPA Budget Expands Health Insurance for Children, Strengthens Support Collections

On February 18, 1998, Gov. Jim Edgar proposed a Fiscal Year 1999 budget of \$6.12 billion for the Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA) that extends health coverage to tens of thousands of uninsured children in low-income families and bolsters the state's campaign to collect more financial support for children.

"The health and well-being of our children are paramount," the Governor said. "Providing medical care to a new group of uninsured children through a program called *KidCare: The Illinois Children's Health Initiative* and continuing to collect record amounts of child support mean Illinois can make historic strides in building stronger families."

"KidCare and child support activities funded in the proposed budget are key elements of this state's overall plan to help more Illinoisans realize good health and achieve self-sufficiency beyond welfare."

The Fiscal Year 1999 budget proposal for Medicaid, child support enforcement, administration and the inspector general represents a 6.8 percent increase from the \$5.7 billion appropriation for the current fiscal year.

"KidCare extends health care to more low-income pregnant women and children who are not covered by medical insurance. The first phase of the initiative began last month, and when the second phase is in place in the coming year tens of thousands of children and nearly 3,000 pregnant women will enjoy the benefits of health insurance," Edgar said.

The proposed budget includes \$117 million for *KidCare*. Edgar has appointed a special task force to draft a legislative proposal for implementing the second phase of *KidCare* in Fiscal Year 1999.

The Governor also called on the General Assembly to provide funding for a 3 percent rate adjustment for Medicaid and community providers in FY 1999.

"This budget also maintains Medicaid's sound financial footing, which means medical providers will continue to be paid promptly, helping to ensure wider access to health care for low-income individuals and families," Edgar said.

The 1999 budget also increases spending for the department's award-winning child support collection program to \$148.8 million, a 3.4 percent increase from the current appropriation of \$143.0 million.

Since the start of the Edgar administration in 1991, the program has collected record amounts of child support each year, totaling \$1.5 billion. Collections have increased because of income withholding, intercepted federal and state income tax refunds, Department of Revenue actions, private collection agencies and professional license revocations.

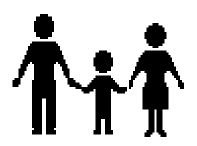
The funding will boost child support collections by an estimated \$85.7 million in Fiscal Year 1999, by hiring 30 front-line employees who handle paternity issues, child support orders and income withholding orders for employers; adding 12 more staff at the Department of Revenue to pursue child support debtors, and continuing use of private collection agencies.

"The state's investment in child support activities yields direct benefits to the families and children who need help with all of life's necessities. The more the state can collect the stronger families can become," Edgar said.

#### New Grandparents Brochure Available

A new IDPA brochure answers concerns of grandparents about their role and that of their children in paternity establishment. The new brochure -- "What If Your Own Child Is About to Become a Parent?" -- resulted from questions of grandparents -- both our customers and staff -- who find themselves in need of information for their grandchildren.

The brochure explains how paternity establishment works in the hospital - Hospital Opportunity for Paternity Establishment (H.O.P.E.), and after the hospital - Paternity Establishment Program (PEP). It points out how when a baby's parents are not married to each other, they can establish legal paternity and at the same time put the father's name on the birth certificate. It emphasized the importance for a grandchild to have paternity established. Some day a grandparent may be raising his/her grandchild. If the grandchild's paternity is established, it will be easier to obtain a child support order and medical coverage for the grandchild. This brochure is available from IDPA at (312) 793-8213.



#### 1998 IFSEA Conference Coming Together

by Bill Henry

The 1998 IFSEA conference will be held October 18-20, 1998 at the Ramada Inn South Plaza, 625 East Joseph St., Springfield, IL. The site is on south Sixth Street Road approximately 1/2 mile north of the junction of I-55 and I-72 (otherwise known as the South 6th St. exit of I-55). The room rate, for all rooms, will be \$50 per night. There are a very limited number of Jacuzzi suites available at the same price. The phone number for reservations is 217-529-7131. The entire facility has been reserved for us, but there are only 100 rooms. Overflow hotels are the Mansion View Inn & Suites, 529 S. Fourth St. (behind the Executive Mansion) telephone 217-544-7411, and Super 8, 3675 South Sixth (approximately 1/4 mile south of the conference site), telephone 217-529-8898. Rooms at both overflow sites are also \$50 per night. Be sure to mention the IFSEA Conference when making reservations.

The Sunday night banquet will feature a threeentree buffet consisting of beef stroganoff, vegetable stir fry and rice, and lemon herbed baked cod. There will be a dessert bar of pies, cakes and other bake goods.

There is a free continental breakfast buffet available both Monday and Tuesday morning. Tuesday morning there will also be a separate buffet breakfast available consisting of scrambled eggs, meats, biscuits and gravy and Danish.

The Monday lunch will also be a three-entree buffet consisting of homemade meat loaf and gravy, boneless breast of chicken with white wine sauce, and vegetable lasagna. As usual, attendees will be on their own for dinner on Monday evening.

It is hoped this 10th conference will provide another opportunity for colleagues to get together and share their insights and "was stories" about child support. The agenda committee, chaired by Asst. Attorney General Matt Ryan, has begun meeting to formulate this year's program.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to call the Conference Chairman, Bill Henry, at 217-785-9007.

#### **IFSEA Committees Formed**

by Laura Otten-Grahek

As reported in the last issue of the *FORUM*, members were selected from volunteers present at the October Board of Directors' Meeting for the five standing committees designated by IFSEA By-Laws. For members who wish to contribute to the standing committees please drop a note, an e-mail, or phone Larry Nelson (200 S. Wyman St., Suite 307-B, Rockford, IL 61101, (815) 987-7981), or Laura Otten-Grahek (2011 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL 61603, (309) 686-7813).

The volunteers selected for the standing committees are as follows:

Nominations & Resolutions:

Larry Nelson, Chair (IFSEA President) Marilyn Bates

Laura Otten-Grahek

Conference & Training:

Bill Henry, Chair (1st Vice-President)

Marilyn Bates

Deanie Bergbreiter

Mary Donoghue

Marjie Haning

Madalyn Maxwell

Linda Nicot

Laura Otten-Grahek

Steve Rissman

Legislation:

Anne Jeskey, Chair (2nd Vice-President)

Deanie Bergbreiter

Jim Ryan

Tom Vaught

Membership & Finance:

Jim Ryan, Chair (Treasurer)

Nancy Waites

Lesley Zegart

**Publications:** 

Tom Sweeney, Chair (Secretary)

Deanie Bergbreiter

Laura Otten-Grahek

Lois Rakov

#### **IFSEA Founder "Retires"**

IFSEA founder and long-time Secretary and Editor of this newsletter, Tom Sweeney, has announced his retirement from the Champaign County State's Attorney's office, effective April 29, 1998. Sweeney has headed up the IV-D support division of that office since it started in 1977.

The decision to retire at this time was prompted by the limited window of opportunity to receive "early retirements" benefits from IMRF, combined with continuing uncertainty whether State's Attorney John Piland will continue involvement in the IV-D program beyond June.

Sweeney has no specific plans for life after leaving the State's Attorney's office, but hopes to continue working in support enforcement. Barring a radical change in career he plans to remain active in IFSEA.

#### From the Courthouse . . .

#### ... CASES & COMMENTARY

As a regular feature the Family Support FORUM will endeavor to provide timely summaries of court decisions, both published and unpublished, and information about pending decisions of general interest to the support enforcement community. Anyone who becomes aware of significant decisions or cases, whether pending or decided at any level, is encouraged to submit them for inclusion in future editions.

by Thomas P. Sweeney

#### Supreme Court Rules: Percent of Income Support Provision Erroneous But Not Unenforceable

In Re Marriage of Mitchell, \_\_\_ Ill. 2d \_\_\_, \_\_ N.E. 2d \_\_\_ (No. 81791, 2/20/98), reversed trial and appellate court holding that a percent of income portion of a child support order was void and unenforceable.

In their 1989 dissolution Stephen agreed to pay Vicky as support for their two children 25% of his net income, but not less than \$450 or more than \$1,000 per month. The level of support was to be reviewed annually on May 1. In December, 1994, Stephen sought modification of visitation. Vicky countered by filing a petition for rule to show cause claiming Stephen had failed to comply with the 25% support provision in that he had incorrectly calculated his income. The trial court, *sua sponte*, held the percent of income provision was void and unenforceable, and dismissed VIcky's petition. Vicky appealed. The Second District Appellate Court affirmed, believing that entry of a percentage of income support order was beyond the trial court's authority.

The Supreme Court reversed and remanded with directions to reinstate the original support order. "We believe that the plain language of the statute requires that the final order state the support level solely in dollar amounts. The legislature used the mandatory word 'shall' to provide that in 'all cases' child support 'shall' be stated in dollar amounts and made no reference to the inclusion of payments as a percentage. To allow settlement agreements to be expressed in part as a percentage, as was done here, would require us to read into the statute payment options that the legislature did not include." This conclusion is also supported by legislative history.

However, the percent of income provision is not void, but is merely voidable. "We find that the trial court's original judgment of dissolution allowing child support paid by Stephen to be expressed as a percentage of net income with fixed dollar limitations was an erroneous judgment." But the trial court had jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter, and the judge had authority to enter the child support order. Reversed and remanded.

#### Cohabitation is Not Fornication! No Reason to Reject Guidelines, Modification

Dept. of Public Aid ex rel. Nale vs. Nale, \_\_\_ Ill. App. 3d \_\_\_, \_\_\_ N.E. 2d \_\_\_ (4th Dist., No. 4-97-0095, 2/9/98), reversed denial of support modification based on trial judge's conclusion the custodial parent was "living in an open state of fornication."

In their 1988 dissolution Michael was ordered to pay Antoinette \$200 per month in child support for each of their two children. In August, 1996, Antoinette sought modification, alleging increased needs and an increase in Michael's income. Michael admitted both the children's needs and his ability to pay had increased. Antoinette's affidavit showed an annual income of \$53,818, with net income of \$3,605 and expenses of \$2,626 per month. Michael's annual income had increased from "\$32,000 to \$33,000" in 1989 to "just over \$51,000" for 1996. Antoinette testified the children's needs had substantially increased, but could not specify exactly what it cost to support them.

On cross-examination she testified Jim Forester, her "significant other," had lived in her home for three years. He earns \$36,000 annually. She testified Forester contributes to the household "no more than what his normal expenses would be," that he does not pay rent or utilities, but occasionally pays some of the household expenses.

The Assistant State's Attorney argued statutory support would be \$763.53 per month, but requested deviation to \$800. Michael's counsel argued that some increase was appropriate, but argued \$600 per month was adequate. The trial court denied any increase, finding the statutory amount "not appropriate in this situation" and the current support "adequate, "stating:

"So far as this court is aware, Section 720 ILCS 5[/]11-8 [(West 1996), defining the misdemeanor crime of fornication,] [h]as not been repealed in this state and is still good law. This woman comes before this court asking for an increase in child support but at the same time supports a man not her husband. And yet argues to this court that she needs additional support. She is living in a[n] open state of fornication in violation of the law. This petition is denied."

(Cont'd. on page 9)

(Cases & Commentary," cont'd. from page 8)

IDPA appeals. The Appellate Court reversed and remanded with directions to modify support to an amount consistent with guidelines. Since all parties agreed there had been a substantial change in circumstances justifying modification, the issue became whether there was a basis for deviation from guidelines.

The Court was particularly critical of the trial court's "focus on Antoinette's living arrangement." The statute defining fornication no longer defines mere co-habitation as a crime. Even if it did, "it provides poor grounds for limiting child support." Moreover,

"It is not appropriate for the trial court to raise the issue *sua sponte* and limit child support without any evidence or argument as to the effect of the living arrangement on the children or the appropriateness of this particular response. . . . Antoinette's living arrangement could still be relevant insofar as it affected her resources. . . . The trial court's emphasis on the allegedly criminal nature of the relationship suggests its primary concern was not its effect on the household's resources."

While the court may not normally examine the financial circumstances of others in the household, it may deviate downward from guidelines if it determines the supporting parent is using support to pay for an unwarranted benefit to someone who is not entitled to support. There was no showing Antoinette benefited Forester from child support or resources that would otherwise have gone to the children. The burden of proof is on Michael to present specific evidence his child support is being diverted to Forester.

The burden is on Michael to justify deviation below presumptive guideline levels, not on Antoinette to justify them. The Court rejected arguments that resources of the children (\$3,500 in investment accounts for each child), Antoinette's higher income or the parties' "high" combined income justified deviation.

# Increased Income Justifies Reduction in Percent of Income Support Order

*In Re Marriage of Singleteary*, 293 Ill. App. 3d 25, \_\_\_\_ N.E. 2d \_\_\_\_ (1st Dist., 11/5/97), affirmed reduction of support due under a percent of income order based on the substantial increase in the obligor's income.

In the parties' 1992 dissolution Stephen was ordered to pay to Chester child support of \$864 per month or 20% of his net income, whichever was greater. Stephen's gross annual income was \$90,000, Chester's was \$55,000. In February, 1995, Stephen petitioned for modification, alleging a substantial increase in his income which would result in support far exceeding the child's needs under the percent of income terms. Stephen's annual income had increased to \$300,000. Chester's annual income had increased to \$75,500. Needs enumerated for the child totaled substantially less than \$2,000 per month, though Chester asserted a need to move to a larger condo (already paid for by Stephen) and enroll the child in private school. The trial court found Stephen's increase in income provided a substantial change of circumstances, but that support at guideline levels (\$3,000 per month) exceeded the child's needs. Support was modified to \$2,000 per month. Chester appeals.

The Appellate Court affirmed. In passing it held the percent of income order provision was not void. "The Act does not by its terms prohibit the use of a percentage rate in a child support order." [But see In Re Marriage of Mitchell, supra.] The order is modifiable upon a showing of substantial change in circumstances - but not limited to an adverse change in the noncustodial parent's circumstances. "The law is clear than only some change in circumstances of any nature that would justify equitable action by the court in the best interests of the child is required."

In deviating below guidelines the court properly weighed the statutory factors for deviation in high income cases and did not abuse its discretion in ordering \$2,000 per month.

#### 'Fornication Case' Makes Headlines in Decatur

Even before the Appellate Court's decision in *DPA* ex rel. Nale vs. Nale reached the parties involved, it made front page headlines in the *Decatur Herald & Review*. The headline in the February 11 edition read "Appeals Court: Cohabitation is Not Fornication."

"Macon County Circuit Judge John L. Davis has been rebuked by an appellate court for ruling that a woman should not get more child support because she lived in 'an open state of fornication'," the article reported. "The 4th District Appellate Court said Tuesday that Davis didn't know the law."

In the article, which summarized the facts involving Decatur residents Michael and Antoinette Nale, Judge Davis defended his position. "He said society too easily accepts unmarried adults living together. He considers it the crime of fornication. Davis also took

issue with the appellate court's opinion that he should not have pressed the fornication angle. If someone breaks the law, he has a responsibility to bring it up, Davis said."

Antoinette Nale, the "winner" in the decision, could have done without the notoriety. She is principal of a Decatur elementary school.

Macon County observers reported Judge Davis seemed to gain popular support from the publicity. He was a candidate in the March 17th Republican primary for election to the same Appellate Court that had "rebuked" him. However, this case was one of two cited by a state bar association judicial evaluation committee in recommending he not be elected.

Judge Davis lost the primary election to Springfield Judge Tom Appleton by less than 100 votes.

#### Long Arm Complaint Requires Allegation of Jurisdictional Facts

by Alan K. Wittig

Courts in this state can adjudicate claims against non-residents if the claim is based on acts committed in this state, as enumerated in what is commonly called the "Long-Arm Statute." But failure to allege what those acts are in the initial complaint may jeopardize the entire case.

The limitation of a state court's jurisdiction is based on the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause as it applies to states. In this instance we are interested in the *in personam* or personal jurisdiction of the state court over an individual.

To determine whether the court has personal jurisdiction, a two prong test must be applied. First, does the court have power over the individual. In order to have that power, the individual must have committed an act or acts within the state. What constitutes an act within the state is still open to debate in some areas. However, the law is clear that jurisdiction is satisfied in paternity cases where the child was conceived by an act or acts of sexual intercourse in the state. The "Long-Arm statute" in the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), 750 ILCS 22/201, states that in a proceeding to establish paternity a tribunal of this state may exercise jurisdiction over a non-resident if "(6) the individual engaged in sexual intercourse in this State and the child may have been conceived by that act of intercourse." And under Illinois' general "Long-Arm statute," 735 ILCS 5/2-209, acts by which a nonresident submits to this state's jurisdiction include, "(6) With respect to actions brought under the Illinois Parentage Act of 1984 . . ., the performance of an act of sexual intercourse within this State during the possible period of conception."

The second test is whether it is reasonable to exercise the power. In paternity cases, the state has an interest in protecting the children who reside in the state. It is also reasonable to expect to be brought before the court for an act committed in that state -- in this instance an act that resulted in a child.

An example of the application of this process is in the case of *People ex rel. Black vs. Neby*, 265 Ill. App. 3d 203, 638 N.E. 2d 276 (4th Dist., 1984). The Court stated that since the child was conceived in the State of Illinois the court had jurisdiction over the alleged father, a resident of Minnesota. In addition, the Court concluded that an allegation that conception occurred in Illinois was sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction.

This now brings us to the whole point, which is, to avail herself of the long arm statute the Petitioner must allege in the complaint that conception occurred in the forum state. If the Petitioner fails to allege such facts the complaint is subject to attack and dismissal.

The courts in Illinois have already dealt with this issue in other areas. In *Koplin vs. Lemer*, 52 Ill. App. 2d 97, 201 N.E. 2d 763 (1st Dist., 1964) the Court affirmed the quashing of service of summons and vacating the orders because the court lacked jurisdiction. It pointed out that a court cannot assert jurisdiction if there is no allegation of facts upon which to base that jurisdiction. Further, the Court affirmed the trial court's refusal to "... infer from the vague allegations and general conclusions of his complaint that there were such acts..."

In another case the Court clearly stated that the complaint *must* allege facts in order to obtain jurisdiction over the non-resident defendant under the long arm statute. *Heller Financial, Inc. vs. Conagra*, 166 Ill. App. 3d 1, 520 N.E. 2d 922, 117 Ill. Dec. 570 (1st Dist., 1988). That Court held that there must be allegations of fact in the complaint for a *prima facie* showing of jurisdiction under the long arm statute. Failure to do so was fatal to the exercise of jurisdiction and therefore fatal to the complaint. The Court affirmed the trial court's quashing the service of summons and dismissal of the complaint.

These lines of cases impact on paternity because, if the non-resident defendant enters a special, limited appearance, objects to the complaint and moves to quash, he would be successful. The standard parentage petition used by IDPA does not have any allegation that the child was conceived in the state. As the cited cases indicate, that form is not sufficient in long arm cases. The better practice is to put the appropriate language in the complaint. An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

Put the appropriate language in the complaint to provide the basis for long arm jurisdiction. This will prevents the possibility of having the complaint dismissed and save time so that the case does not have to be started all over again. It might also prevent a possible award of attorney's fees to the respondent.

<sup>(\*</sup>Alan K. Wittig is a Deputy County Attorney in the Support Division in [Pinal] County, Arizona. Prior to moving to [Florence, AZ] in December, 1997, he was an Illinois Assistant Attorney General for two years handling child support cases in the Champaign Region, and prior to that was an Assistant State's Attorney in the support enforcement division of the Champaign County State's Attorney's office.)

#### Raising a Child by USDA Standards

by Thomas M. Vaught

The cost of raising a child is going up. While you may have suspected this, the United States Department of Agriculture puts a dollar figure on it. On March 23, 1998, Agricultural Secretary Dan Glickman announced the availability of the Department's annual report "Expenditures on Children by Families" which examines family expenditures on children through age 17. "This report, issued annually by USDA annually since 1960, is a valuable resource to states in determining child support guidelines and foster care payments," said Glickman.

The report estimates that over the next 17 years a middle class family will spend \$153,660 (in 1997 dollars) to provide food, shelter and other necessities in rasing the younger child in a two child family. This is an increase from the \$25,229 (in 1960 dollars) estimated in 1960 when projections were first made. The expenditures estimated are direct parental expenses. Expenses such as public education, Medicaid, and subsidized school meals are excluded. For the average family housing was the largest single expenditure accounting for 33 percent of the total cost. Food, the second largest expense, was 18 percent. Compared with expenditures for each child in a two-child family, households with one child spend an average of 24 percent more on the single child, and those with three or more children spend an average of 23 percent less on each child. On a geographic basis the lowest expenses occur in the urban Midwest and in rural areas.

The Department also issued estimates for expenditures by single-parent families. For husband-and-wife families projections were made in three

categories; before-tax income of 1) less than \$35,500, 2) \$35,500 to \$59,700 and 3) more than \$59,700. For single-parent families projections were made in two categories 1) under \$31,000 and 2) over \$31,000. Only 17 percent of single-parent families had a before-tax income of \$31,000 and over. Income calculations included child support. Most single-parent families in the survey (90 percent) were headed by a woman. In the lowest income category, for the younger child in a two-child family, a single-parent household would spend \$107,100 on the child compared with \$112,710 in a husband-wife household.

There are different methods for estimating child rearing expenses. Two common methods are the marginal cost method and a strict per capita method. In the USDA study child specific expenses were assigned to children; overall expenses were allocated to children based on previous research or on a per capita basis. Table 11 compares methods.

The USDA estimates were between those projected by other techniques. All estimates indicated that expenditures on children do not increase proportionally as the number of children increase. Expenditures on two children are not twice as much as those for one child.

The USDA report is examined in the March 30, 1998, issue of *U.S. New & World Report*. The article, entitled "The Real Cost of Raising Kids," suggests that the cost for one child could total \$1,445,581. In

(Cont'd. on page 12)

Table 11. Average percent of household ex	penditures attribu	<b>table to children in h</b> Estin		ies	
Child Expenditures	Engel <sup>1</sup>	Rothbarth $^{\rm 1}$	Per Capita	USDA <sup>2</sup>	
Number of Children:	Percent				
One	33	25	33	26	
Two	49	35	50	42	
Three	59	39	60	48	
Household expenditure level <sup>3</sup>					
Low	49	36	50	45	
Average	49	36	50	42	
High	49	35	50	39	

- 1 Percentages for these estimators taken from: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1990.
- 2 Percentages taken from the 1995 USDA study. Average expenditures of families in each income level were used to make comparisons. Percentages by number of children are based on average expenditures of middle-income families.
- 3 Percentages by household expenditure level are for a family with two children.

("USDA Standards," cont'd. from page 11)

addition to the USDA figures, *U.S. News & World Report* includes the cost of a college education and a category for the cost of forgone wages. The totals reported for various categories seem to differ from the USDA figures. Tables 1 and 7 reproduced below and on page 13 present summaries of the USDA figures for husband-wife and single-parent families respectively.

The USDA report is available on line at <a href="http://www.usda.gov/fcs/cnpp.htm">http://www.usda.gov/fcs/cnpp.htm</a>. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required. This program is available free from Adobe Systems Incorporated. If this does not make sense to you there are a limited number of copies available from, USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, 1120 20th Street, N.W., Suite 200, North Lobby, Washington DC 20036-3406

(Cont'd. on page 13)

Table 1. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, overall United States, 1997								
	states, 1997			_			Child	
Age of Child	Total	Housing	Food	Transpor tation	Clothing	Health Care	Care & Education	Miscel-
		• •			• •	curc	Laucation	iaricoas
Before-t	ax income:	Less than	\$35,000 (A	verage = \$	22,100.)			
0-2	\$ 5,820	\$ 2,220	\$ 830	\$ 730	\$ 370	\$ 400	\$ 690	\$ 580
3-5	5,920	2,190	920	700	360	380	780	590
6-8	6,070	2,120	1,190	820	410	440	460	630
9-11	6,090	1,910	1,420	890	450	480	280	660
12-14	6,880	2,130	1,490	1,000	760	480	200	820
15-17	6,790	1,720	1,610	1,350	670	510	330	600
Total:	\$112,710	\$36,870	\$22,380	\$18,470	\$9,060	\$8,070	\$8,220	\$11,640
Before-t	Before-tax income: \$35,500 to \$59,700 (Average = \$47,200)							
0-2	\$ 8,060	\$ 3,000	\$ 990	\$ 1,090	\$ 440	\$ 520	\$ 1,130	\$ 890
3-5	8,270	2,970	1,140	1,060	430	500	1,260	910
6-8	8,350	2,900	1,460	1,180	480	570	810	950
9-11	8,320	2,700	1,710	1,250	530	620	530	980
12-14	9,050	2,920	1,730	1,360	890	620	390	1,140
15-17	9,170	2,500	1,920	1,720	790	660	660	920
Total:	\$153,660	\$50,970	\$26,850	\$22,980	\$10,680	\$10,470	\$14,340	\$17,370
Before-tax income: More than \$59,700 (Average = \$89,300)								
0-2	\$ 11,990	\$ 4,770	\$ 1,310	\$ 1,520	\$ 580	\$ 600	\$ 1,710	\$ 1,500
3-5	12,230	4,740	1,480	1,490	570	580	1,860	1,510
6-8	12,180	4,670	1,790	1,610	620	660	1,280	1,550
9-11	12,090	4,470	2,080	1,680	680	710	890	1,580
12-14	12,930	4,690	2,180	1,790	1,120	710	690	1,750
15-17	13,260	4,270	2,300	2,180	1,020	750	1,210	1,530
Total:	\$224,040	\$82,830	\$33,420	\$30,810	\$13,770	\$12,030	\$22,920	\$28,260

<sup>\*</sup> Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

<sup>†</sup> Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Table 7. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by single-parent families, overall United States, 1997								
Age of Child	Total	Housing	Food	Transpor tation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care & Education	Miscel- laneous <sup>†</sup>
Before-t	ax income:	Less than	\$35,500 (A	verage = \$	14,000)			
0-2	\$ 4,900	\$ 1,990	\$ 920	\$ 680	\$ 340	\$ 190	\$ 430	\$ 350
3-5	5,510	2,260	960	600	360	280	590	460
6-8	6,230	2,410	1,220	690	420	330	540	620
9-11	5,820	2,310	1,410	500	430	420	260	490
12-14	6,270	2,310	1,410	580	720	450	320	480
15-17	6,970	2,450	1,540	900	840	440	250	550
Total:	\$107,100	\$41,190	\$22,380	\$11,850	\$9,330	\$8,330	\$7,170	\$8,850
Before-tax income: \$35,500 or more (Average = \$53,900)								
0-2	\$ 11,210	\$ 4,290	\$ 1,410	\$ 2,080	\$ 480	\$ 440	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,450
3-5	12,030	4,560	1,500	2,000	500	590	1,330	1,550
6-8	12,800	4,700	1,800	2,090	580	680	1,240	1,710
9-11	12,380	4,610	2,160	1,900	580	810	730	1,590
12-14	13,120	4,610	2,120	1,970	960	860	1,030	1,570
15-17	13,580	4,750	2,240	2,140	1,110	850	840	1,650
Total:	\$225,360	\$82,560	\$33,690	\$36,540	\$12,630	\$12,690	\$18,690	\$28,560

<sup>\*</sup> Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. For estimated expenses on the older child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 0.93. To estimate expenses for two children, the expenses on the younger child and older child--after adjusting the expense on the other child downward-- should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expenses for the appropriate age category by 1.35. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.72--after adjusting the expenses on the older children downward. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

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<sup>†</sup> Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

("Legislative Up-date," cont'd. from page 4)

person convicted of default on child support under this section to perform community service for not less than 30 or more than 120 hours, if community service is available in the jurisdiction and if funded and approved by the respective county board; provides further that this section applies to any judicial *or administrative order* for child support issued under the Public Aid Code or enumerated other statutory acts. (emphasis added)

#### S.B. 1041 Sen. Cross

Makes amendments to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act identical to those already adopted by P.A. 90-240, effective last fall.

S.B. 1053 Sen. Parker

Adds new § 511.1 to the IMDMA (750 ILCS 5/511.1), designated "The Hidden Marital Assets Law," providing that where a party to an action knowingly refuses or fails to disclose any asset or asset information required to be disclosed which is material to a determination or assignment of property rights under the Act, and the asset or combination of undisclosed assets has a value of at least \$3,000, the party entitled to disclosure may at any time seek to set aside or reopen any order related to the disposition of such assets; if the court finds willful failure to disclose the existence or value of the asset it may order the asset or its value forfeited to the party entitled to disclosure, plus attorneys fees and costs. Any document purporting to disclose assets material to proceedings under the Act must be accompanied by a certification by the party and by any attorney representing him that they had no knowledge that the substance of the submission is false, misleading or incomplete. If the court finds a willful failure to disclose it shall refer any person who knowingly participated in the nondisclosure or misrepresentation to the State's Attorney and to "any appropriate licensing, regulatory, or disciplinary authority" (e.g., ARDC!).

#### S.B. 1259 Sen. Fawell

Amends § 2-1401 of the Code of Civil Procedure to provide that a petition for relief from any judgment

establishing a parent-child relationship may be filed at any time by a man adjudicated to be the father to declare the non-existence of the parent-child relationship; provides that an affidavit shall be attached to the petition stating either that the parties have submitted to DNA tests and that the results show that there is a reasonable probability that the petitioner is not the parent of the child, or that the affiant is willing to submit to and pay for DNA tests, but that the natural mother or the child has refused to submit to such test; provides that if, as a result of the DNA tests the petitioner is determined not to be the father, the adjudication of paternity and any orders regarding custody, visitation and future payments of support shall be vacated; bars actions in cases in which the paternity of the petitioner has previously been established by a DNA test.

#### S.B. 1300 Sen. Madigan

Adds new § 1-119 to the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/1-119), provides that if an annuitant under a pension plan administered by the state fails to comply with a domestic relations order (defined to exclude an order for withholding) requiring the annuitant to pay a portion of his retirement annuity to another party, the court may issue an order in a prescribed form directing the retirement system to deduct a specific dollar amount from each retirement annuity payment and issue a separate payment of the amount deducted to that other party.

#### S.B. 1700 Sens. Donahue & Philip

Makes numerous changes to numerous sections to (1) require IDPA to establish a State Disbursement Unit to collect and disburse support payments under court and administrative orders; (2) require establishment of a State Case Registry containing information about child support orders, (3) make changes in provisions relating to establishment of paternity, and (4) make changes in provisions relating to withholding of income to secure payment of child support. [With the extension of Illinois' deadline to implement this requirement of federal Welfare Reform until October 1, 1999, it has been reported that this bill has been tabled and is being re-written.]

# IFSEA's Moving!

Effective April 30, 1998, IFSEA's mailing address will be: P. O. Box 370, Tolono, IL 61880

Until further notice, telephone messages for IFSEA can be directed to Tom Sweeney at:

(217) 485-5302

At least temporarily IFSEA has no formal FAX number.

("Attorney General," cont'd. from page 3)

Ryan added: "Child support involves the enforcement of legal rights and obligations. Responsibility for program administration should rest with the state's chief legal officer, the Attorney General. Deadbeat dads are more likely to pay attention to the demands of a law enforcement office than a welfare agency."

Since he became Attorney General, Ryan hired a cabinet-level attorney, Cheryl Niro, to spearhead his office's effort to improve the state's child support system. Niro has been part of two groups -- one headed by the Chicago Council of Lawyers, the other by the Attorney General -- that met for months to study the child support issue. Both concluded that the administration of child support should be transferred to another government office. Those duties are now performed by the state Department of Public Aid.

If H.B. 2359 becomes law, child support administration will be directly overseen by a statewide elected official and the state's top law enforcement officer, resulting in more accountability. Ryan said he will aggressively pursue a "zero tolerance for deadbeats" policy, using every statutory tool available to enforce child support orders, and replicating every proven program used in other states such as the Massachusetts model allowing credit cards to be used for child support payments. He said he will continue stressing decentralization by encouraging more state's attorneys to collect

child support money in their counties, subject to statewide standards.

If child support enforcement is consolidated in his office, the Attorney General pledged to design and implement a new computer system linking all government offices involved in child support. A "triage" intake system will diagnose the specific needs of each client, replacing the current assembly line case process. In addition the office intends to develop "one-stop shopping" providing all child support services in one location, and to develop and enforce statewide standards that all child support offices will be expected to achieve. Extensive training programs for all child support staff will be essential, he noted.

To ensure an orderly transition from Public Aid to the Attorney General's Office, Ryan promised to appoint an inter-agency team to develop a smooth change-over. A permanent advisory board will be established to make sure that enforcement constantly improves in Illinois. Local Coordinating Councils will be created to bring together judges, lawyers, advocates and others involved in child support to make recommendations for program improvements.

"Efficient child support enforcement largely depends on effective administration," Ryan said. "We can't tinker around the margins. We need fundamental change."

# ILLINOIS FAMILY SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION Application for Membership / Address Correction

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(4/98)	,					

# Task Force Reports Progress on Standardized Forms

by Thomas P. Sweeney

On March 24, 1998, members of a committee attempting to develop standardized child support forms met in Chicago to discuss their progress. The task force, organized late last year by the Office of the Attorney General, is comprised of attorneys, judges, court clerks, representatives of IDPA and interested parents' advocacy organizations from throughout the state.

At the March 24 meeting representatives of three of the four subcommittees presented first drafts of various forms they had reviewed and redrafted. In addition to the comments and recommendations elicited at the meeting committee members were urged to review the forms presented and direct specific comments to members of the respective subcommittees for incorporation into revisions to be discussed at the next meeting. Revised drafts were to be submitted to the Attorney General's office by April 24th for distribution to all committee members for review prior to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the full committee is now scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 11, 1998, in Rm. N-505 of the State of Illinois Building, 160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago. For more information, call Sue Mullen at (312) 814-1005.

#### Conference Calendar

Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA), 35th Annual Training Conference & Exposition, May 3 - 7, 1998, Hyatt Regency-Riverfront, Savannah, GA.. For more information, call Nancy Crawford at (703) 359-1277.

National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA), 47th Annual Conference and Exposition, August 2 - 6, 1998, Washington Hilton & Towers, Washington, DC. For more information, call Heather Tonks at )202) 624-8180.

Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association (IFSEA), 10th Annual Conference on Support Enforcement, October 18-20, 1998, Ramada South, Springfield. For more information, call Bill Henry at (217) 785-9007.

(If you learn of a conference that may be of interest to support enforcement practitioners, please advise the FORUM so that it may be announced in future issues.)

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