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Family Support Forum

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois
Family Support Enforcement Association

Vol. 42- September 2024



Dear Colleagues,

For those who have attended an IFSEA Conference before, you already know the value and insight these events offer. For newcomers, let me assure you that this conference is a fantastic opportunity to deepen your knowledge of Child Support, network with fellow professionals, and connect with others who share your passion for this vital field.

This year's conference will feature a diverse range of sessions, including discussions on managing cases involving Sovereign citizens, exploring fatherhood initiatives from different states and organizations, and understanding the future direction of HFS in supporting families in Illinois. We're also excited to present our ever-popular judge's panel, as well as sessions on the Office of Attorney General's Crime Victims Compensation Bureau and updates from Veteran Affairs. We aim to provide valuable content that will enhance your ability to serve the families of Illinois more effectively.

We are also thrilled to announce the return of the IFSEA banquet, which we had to pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme for this year's banquet is "Red Carpet". Think of the banquet as Child Support's answer to the Oscars (lol). This year, you'll have the chance to dress to impress and join us for an evening of celebration and camaraderie. While there is no true dress code for the banquet, "Business Casual" or "**After Five**" wear would be appropriate. We will be presenting our annual awards, celebrating the achievements of our colleagues over the past year. I look forward to dining, socializing, and celebrating with you all. Come prepared to learn, laugh, and make new friends. Together, let's continue to advance our knowledge and stay current with the latest developments in child support.

See you all soon!

Warm Regards,



Tunisa Jackson
1st Vice President
IFSEA

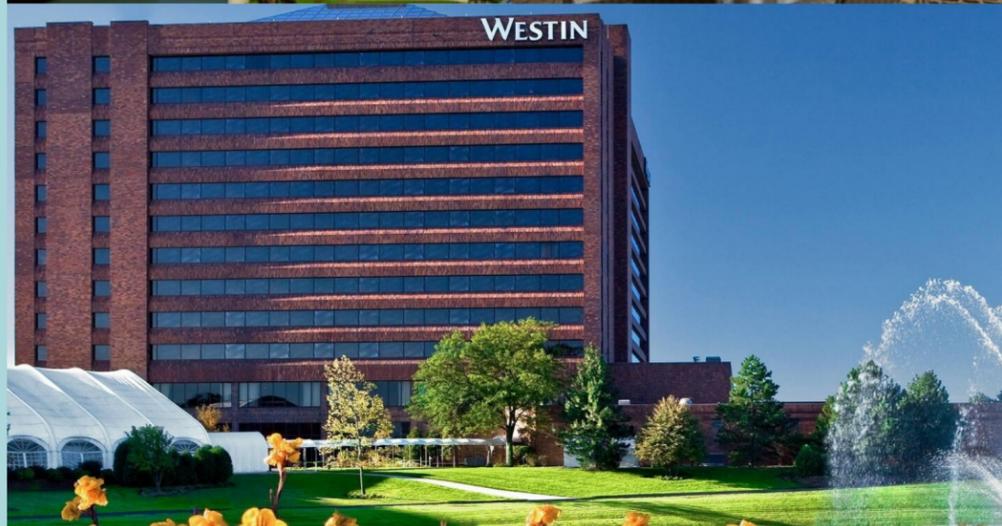
Don't forget, registration for IFSEA 2024 is now open! Click below to register for IFSEA 2024: Breaking Boundaries- Navigating the Multifaceted Landscape of Modern Child Support today!! After

Registration is Now Open!!

IFSEA Conference 2024:
Breaking Boundaries- Navigating the
Multifaceted Landscape of Modern Child Support



When: October 21 & 22 2024
Where: The Westin Northwest (Itasca, IL)



**Wonder what you'll learn at this year's conference?
Check out this year's agenda for a list of topics that
will be discussed and events that will take place!**

Monday, October 21, 2024

9:00-9:15

President Welcome & Announcements

- Speakers:
 - Nichole Mahrt, IFSEA Board of Directors President; Assistant Attorney General, Child Support Enforcement Division
 - Tunisa Jackson, IFSEA Board of Directors First Vice President; Assistant Deputy Administrator, Child Support Services

9:15-10:15

Session 1: Sovereign Citizen

- Speakers:
 - Amy Rebideaux, FOC Operations Manager, Muskegon County Family Court, Muskegon, MI
 - Jason Walker, Family Division Supervisor Muskegon County Family Court, Muskegon, MI
- Description:
 - A history of the Sovereign Citizens' Movement, including how to recognize someone who adheres to the Movement through a review of documents, words, and actions. Suggestions for how to interact and respond to those who identify as sovereign citizens. Real life examples will be used to demonstrate concepts.

10:15-10:30

Break

Session 2: Office of Child Support Services (OCSS formerly OCSE)

- Speakers:
 - Geraldine Franco, Program Specialist, Office of Child Support Services
- Description:
 - Learn about OCSS' current vision and priorities and receive a program overview from the federal level, including a review of different divisions, regional offices, and state and tribal partners. Overview of the function of OCSS and the critical role local staff have in the success and stability of our nation's families. There will be tips for navigating the OCSS webpage and other resources.

11:15-12:15**Session 3: Legislative, Case Law, IV-D, and EPIC Project Update**

- Speakers:
 - Bryan Tribble, IV-D Administrator, Division of Child Support Services; IFSEA Board of Directors
 - Christina Mahoney, Assistant Attorney General, Child Support Enforcement, Division Chief; IFSEA Board of Directors
- Description:
 - Explore the dynamic world of child support laws and regulations with a thorough examination of the latest updates in the Illinois IV-D program, case law and legislative updates that are shaping the field of child support.
 - Child Support Services is in the process of system conversion. Brief update on the Enforcement and Paternity for Illinois Children (EPIC), conversion schedule and explanation of the progress of the conversion and future implementation.

12:15-12:30**Board Nominations and Vote via Slido Web App****12:30-1:30****Lunch****1:30-3:00****Session 4: Judges' Panel - Judicial Insights: Navigating Complex Child Support Scenarios**

- Speakers:
 - Moderator:
 - Christina Mahoney, Assistant Attorney General, Child Support Enforcement, Division Chief; IFSEA Board of Directors
 - Honorable Judge Stacy Campbell, St. Clair County 20th Judicial Circuit
 - Honorable Judge Daniel Cordis, Peoria County 10th Judicial Circuit
 - Honorable Judge Sarah Duffy, McLean County 11th Judicial Circuit
 - Honorable Judge Karen Eiten, LaSalle County 13th Judicial Circuit
 - Honorable Judge Stephanie Klein, DeKalb County, 23rd Judicial Circuit
 - Honorable Judge Matthew Link, Cook County, 7th Judicial Circuit
 - Honorable Judge Michelle Vescogni, LaSalle County 13th Judicial Circuit
- Description:
 - Join us for one of IFSEA's most anticipated sessions, where a distinguished panel of seven judges, each with extensive experience in child support cases, will explore and dissect challenging hypothetical scenarios. These scenarios are crafted from real-world cases, submissions by panel judges, or unique issues designed to provoke thoughtful discussion. The session will

valuable perspectives and practical takeaways for navigating the intricacies of child support law.

3:15-3:30

Break

3:30-5:00

Session 5: Transforming Child Support from Enforcement to Service

- Speakers:
 - Dr. Kirk Harris, Parent and Community Technology (PACT) Law Center, Founder and CEO
 - Meshia Henderson, Vice President Family and Economic Impact, Maximus
- Description:
 - Child support has long been associated with negative perceptions among both noncustodial and custodial parents – primarily due to a historical focus on collections and enforcement without adequate support for noncustodial parents. Recognizing that barriers to employment and self-sufficiency exist for both parents, child support projects across the nation are realizing that we have an obligation to navigate our customers to services that aid in self-sufficiency. In doing so, we can help revitalize the perception of child support. It takes time to change the views of a community of people, but we are doing it successfully.

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

9:00-9:30

Annual Members' Meeting

9:30-10:30

Session 6: Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) Act: Updates, Connections, and Considerations for Child Support Cases

- Speakers:
 - Moderator:
 - Christina Mahoney, Assistant Attorney General, Child Support Enforcement, Division Chief; IFSEA Board of Directors
 - Lisa Hennelly, Assistant Attorney General; Violence Prevention Crime Victim Services Division
- Description
 - This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the Crime Victims Compensation Act, with a special focus on its relevance to child support cases. Participants will learn about the Act's implementation, eligibility criteria, and the range of compensable expenses. The presentation will also highlight upcoming amendments to the CVC Act and discuss how these changes could impact families involved in child support cases. Additionally, we will explore the vital work being done to connect victims of crime, particularly those involved in child support matters, with the compensation and support they need.

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:00

Session 7: Child Support Cases with Military Involvement: Strategies and Solutions

- Speakers:

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o Moderator:

o Christina Mahoney, Assistant Attorney General, Child Support

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Enforcement, Division Chief; IFSEA Board of Directors

- o William Phillips, Assistant Attorney General, Military and Veterans Rights Bureau
- o Grant T. Swinger, staff attorney U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Description:
 - o This session will explore the unique challenges that arise when handling child support cases involving military personnel. Our expert military presenters will cover critical topics, including the complexities of service of process and jurisdiction, the impact of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) on family law cases, and the nuances of determining income when VA benefits and military pay are involved. Attendees will gain valuable insights into best practices for contacting military personnel, enforcing child support orders, and understanding military Leave and Earnings Statements. This session is essential for practitioners who work with military families and seek to ensure compliance and fairness in child support proceedings.

12:00***Closing Remarks***

- Speaker:
 - o Tunisa Jackson, IFSEA Board of Directors First Vice President; Assistant Deputy Administrator, Child Support Services

12:15-1:15***Annual Board Meeting (Board Members Only)***

If you have any questions about the 2024 IFSEA Conference, please feel free to email the conference organizers at: info@illinoisfamilysupport.org.



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