

2005 Child Support Amnesty Program Summary

Background:

The Amnesty Program, Public Acts 564, 567 and 568 of 2004, began on October 1, 2005, and continued until December 31, 2005. The program granted amnesty from enforcement activities to eligible payers who applied during the open enrollment time period. Amnesty was restricted to Michigan criminal and civil enforcement activities provided for by law for the payers' failure or refusal to pay support prior to applying for the program.

The Amnesty Program also required eligible payers to comply with one of two payment arrangements:

- **Option one** allowed the eligible payer to pay 100% of support arrears; or
- **Option two** allowed the eligible payer to pay 50% of the support arrears and the remaining 50% by December 31, 2005.

Synopsis:

The Office of Child Support (OCS) staff reviewed and compiled project data provided by friend of the court (FOC) staff, and recorded the following findings:

- According to a Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES) query, 422,239 payers were eligible to participate in the Amnesty Program as of October 1, 2005.
- 19 payers with a total of \$234,675.65 in collectible arrears participated in the Amnesty Program.
- 8 participants successfully completed the program by paying all arrears owed on the case.
- 11 participants entered the program but did not successfully complete the program. These payers did pay 50% or more of their eligible arrears.
- The Michigan child support program collected a total of \$210,233.79 from eligible participants in the Amnesty Program.
 - Michigan families received \$207,316.81 of the total payments collected as a result of the Amnesty Program.
 - 3 families received over \$40,000 each.
 - The state of Michigan received \$2,292.48 of the total payments collected for state-owed arrears as a result of the Amnesty Program.
 - Other arrears received \$624.50 of the total payments collected as a result of the Amnesty Program.
- On 17 of the 19 child support cases participating in the Amnesty Program, current support continues to accrue (i.e., the child is a minor).