



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 401
Post Office Box 3278
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278
Phone: (501) 682-2242
Fax: (501) 682-1029
www.arkansas.gov/dfa

**OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT –
A DIVISION OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND
ADMINISTRATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 9, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Scott Hardin, Communications Administrator
Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
501-682-5339, scott.hardin@dfa.arkansas.gov

**Governor Hutchinson highlights child support awareness in August
“Back in the Driver’s Seat” program to allow parents behind on payments to get back on track**

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (August 9, 2018) – Arkansas’ Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), a division of the Department of Finance and Administration, is joining Governor Hutchinson in highlighting child support awareness in August. Governor Hutchinson today issued a proclamation formally declaring August “Child Support Awareness Month” in Arkansas. As part of this effort, OCSE is offering a program this month known as “Back in the Driver’s Seat.” This will allow parents who are behind on child support payments and whose driver’s license has been suspended due to nonpayment to work with their local child support office to reach an agreement to resume payment. Upon reaching an agreement, OCSE will release any child support related holds on the individual’s driver’s license.

OCSE’s 26 offices around the state will host “Back in the Driver’s Seat” events on certain days in August, at which OCSE staff will work with parents, whether they are slightly behind on payments or have not paid over a significant period. With each case presenting unique factors, there is not a certain amount or percentage of funds owed that must be paid in order to reach an agreement. This will be determined on a case by case basis. Those interested may contact their local child support office to learn the dates and times each local office will host these events. The full list of offices, including contact information, may be found at www.dfa.arkansas.gov/office-locations/child-support-offices or by calling 1-833-319-2816.

“Research has consistently revealed that children who receive child support perform better in school and are more likely to graduate than children without a parent providing this support,” said Governor Hutchinson. “Through our ‘Back in the Driver’s Seat’ program, we are providing an opportunity for those behind on payments to get back on track, benefiting both the child and the parent.”

Arkansas’ Office of Child Support Enforcement can work with child support programs in 54 states and US Territories, 63 Native American Tribes, and 35 nations to establish and collect child support.

“There are numerous benefits to the “Back in Driver’s Seat” program,” said OCSE Administrator Alan McVey. “Releasing the hold on a driver’s license provides a resource that will allow the parent easier access to employment along with the ability to visit the child more frequently. Throughout August, we look forward to sharing the many ways child support improves the lives of children in Arkansas.”

A 2015 study found the number of children living in poverty nationwide would have been seven percent higher if those families had not received child support.

More information on OCSE may be found at www.dfa.arkansas.gov/child-support.

###