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# Child Support Enforcement

## 2007 Background Paper

### Current Services

Nevada participates in a child support program that provides services to welfare recipients, former welfare recipients and any custodial or non-custodial parent who applies for services. The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services and county District Attorneys all work to assist families to establish and collect child support.

Services provided range from locating a parent and determining a child's paternity, to establishing and enforcing a support order, and finally, collecting and distributing the support. With as many as 30% of Nevada's children living in single parent households there are potentially significant benefits for families in efficient collection of child support.

### Gaps in Services

A performance audit of Nevada's enforcement and collection of child support was completed in December 2006 by an independent consultant group, MAXIMUS. It found that Nevada's performance was in the bottom 6 rankings nationwide on all measures of performance. Among the 50 states Nevada ranks as follows:

- 49<sup>th</sup> in paternity establishment
- 45<sup>th</sup> in support order establishment
- 49<sup>th</sup> in support collected
- 48<sup>th</sup> in cases with arrears in payments
- 47<sup>th</sup> in cost effectiveness (<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/performanceAudit/>)

Key recommendations in the MAXIMUS report involve improved collaboration between the state and county support staff. The state establishes child support orders and collects and distributes funds in welfare cases, and the county District Attorneys' offices provide services for non-welfare cases. The District Attorneys' offices enforce all cases. Other recommendations include improving the process for establishing paternity and replacing the NOMADS software system currently in use. Suggested administrative changes involve improved training, strategic planning, performance measurement and document handling.