



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES EXPLAINS CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

HICKORY – Did you know that Catawba County Social Services manages approximately 7,000 child support cases?

The Child Support unit of Social Services assists with the collection of child support. August is Child Support Awareness Month. This year, the theme is “Be the Difference.”

Child support is money paid to cover some or all of a child’s basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, education and childcare, by the non-custodial parent. Here are a few interesting facts about Child Support that you may not know:

- Anyone living in Catawba County can ask Catawba County Social Services to assist them in collecting child support. There is a fee of \$25; however, if the child is receiving Medicaid, there is no charge.
- Child support and visitation rights are two distinct and different legal matters.
- Although men are most frequently the providers of child support, 15 percent of all people who pay child support are women.
- There are no national guidelines for determining an adequate amount of child support. Each state uses its own calculations/guidelines to set child support.
- Catawba County’s Child Support unit handles both in-state and out-of-state child support orders.
- Failure to pay child support can lead to serious consequences, including wage garnishment, asset seizure, credit bureau reporting, driver’s license suspension, passport denial, withholding of unemployment benefits, or jail time.
- In October of 2015, Catawba County Child Support partnered with Goodwill Industries in a program called Project Re-Entry, which is designed to help those with a criminal background enter the workforce and become gainfully employed.

Child Support is a complex program, and Catawba County Social Services works hard to effectively establish and enforce child support orders.

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