



**State of New Mexico**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Susana Martinez**  
*Governor*

For Immediate Release  
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**Governor Susana Martinez Announces Crackdown on  
Parents Failing to Pay Child Support**

*Fifth Consecutive Crackdown Follows Four Straight Years of Record-Breaking  
Child Support Collections*

**Santa Fe, NM** — Today, for the fifth straight year, Governor Susana Martinez announced a crackdown on parents failing to pay child support. The child support bench warrant operation begins this week and continues through the end of the month.

“Parents have an obligation to take care of their children – no exceptions, no excuses,” Governor Martinez said. “We want to make New Mexico the best place to be a kid, and that starts with owning up to your responsibilities as a parent. If you owe child support, pay up. Otherwise, law enforcement will hold you accountable.”

From now to August 31, parents with an outstanding bench warrant due to unpaid child support obligations may visit one of the 14 child support offices across the state, pay the full amount of the bond, and get the warrant quashed or canceled without fear of arrest. However, at any point during the amnesty period, they risk being arrested if they are stopped by New Mexico State Police or local law enforcement partners. During the roundup portion of the bench warrant program, State Police and local law enforcement will also actively seek out parents who have not taken care of their bench warrant.

A reduced bond payment or payment plan toward the amount of past due child support may be negotiated if an individual is unable to pay the full amount of the bond set by the court. Non-custodial parents with a written job offer may also request to negotiate a lower bond payment with wage withholding payments.

During Fiscal Year 2016, the New Mexico Human Services Department's Child Support Enforcement Division set yet another record in child support collections with a total of \$140.8 million. Each of the past four fiscal years, New Mexico has broken state records for child support collections, collecting \$140.1 million in FY 2015, \$137.1 million in FY 2014, \$132.2 million in FY 2013 and \$129.6 million in FY 2012. Thanks to programs like the bench warrant amnesty and roundup period, New Mexico was [recognized by the National Child Support Enforcement Association in 2012](#) as the nation's most improved.

A list of all parents having outstanding bench warrants issued throughout the state is [posted on the HSD website here](#), and will be kept up-to-date throughout the program. There are nearly 800 active bench warrants issued by New Mexico courts related to child support cases.

Governor Martinez proclaimed August 2016 Child Support Awareness Month to recognize all New Mexico parents who support their children, and encourage all parents to assume responsibility for improving the economic and social well-being of their children. The Governor's proclamation declaring Child Support Awareness Month is [available online here](#). Those with questions about any of the Child Support Awareness Month activities may contact CSED toll free at (800) 288-7207 in state or (800) 585-7631 out of state.

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