

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
1470 College Parkway Carson City, NV, 89706
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CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES COMMITTEE
Chairperson Kimberly Surratt

Public Comment Submitted for Consideration

Subject: No Support Reduction for Incarcerated Payers

Please seriously consider no reduction of support while incarcerated.

There are several reasons to continue the obligation of support during incarceration.

1. An unintended result is that family members will be less inclined to report criminal activity if it results in reduction of support to a child in the family. Many times it is family members who report wrong doing that would have otherwise never been discovered.
2. The obligation of support should remain intact even if the parent currently has no ability to pay. Children and others who end up taking on the burden due to the payers poor choices, should continue to have some hope of restitution. If the payer later receives some lottery, inheritance, or other fortune, they should be obligated to repay their debt before they go party.
3. The concern that if a criminal is too far in debt, the total amount that could be recovered will be higher if the debt is lowered, is a bad reason to reduce debt. It sends the wrong signal to our public. The cause and effect is not established and Nevada should not take the risk of making such a social experiment. Just because some payers who had lower debt paid a higher percentage of their debt, it is not proof they did so because it was lower. There are many more social factors that play into decisions. Perhaps those who incur less debt are the type of people who pay their debts, and those who accumulate debt more freely, pay it back less often.

We suggest making no consideration of lower support for those who are incarcerated.

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Other Nevada citizens supporting this concept:

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