

# Child Support Report



OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Vol. 32 No. 6 June 2010

## Database Portal Helps Kentucky Locate Noncustodial Parents

By Jacob Van der Oort  
*Kentucky Division of Child Support*

than \$38,000 in back child support in two cases originating in Maryland.

In some cases, the task of locating parents who owe child support can be as simple as going online. The Kentucky Division of Child Support and other state and local agencies have turned to a Kentucky-based technology company to provide them with a valuable source of information in their search for noncustodial parents.

Appriss' JusticeXchange is the integrated criminal justice portal to OffenderNet, the nation's largest database of historical and currently incarcerated booking records and photos from thousands of agencies across the country.

The results in Kentucky have been promising. In 2009, the department's Parent Locate section staff located an average of more than 125 absent parents through JusticeXchange each month. The number of located absent parents by means of JusticeXchange actually is a lot larger now that child support staff statewide has gained access to JusticeXchange.

Staff recently reported a match between a noncustodial parent in a Kentucky jail to an Indiana child support case in which more than \$15,000 was owed. Indiana authorities were notified and the offender was extradited across state lines to answer the charges.

Another noncustodial parent was located in a county jail on a charge unrelated to child support. Staff discovered that the individual owed more



Krista Hackworth, a Magoffin County, KY, child support specialist, was seeking two individuals who had fallen months behind in their child support payments. Hackworth placed a watch on both and was notified when the two were arrested. "This allowed me to get the needed information on delinquent child support to the judges that would preside over their cases," said Hackworth.

Previously, obtaining booking information was rather cumbersome. Using a mainframe application, workers could only search by name and the system only contained Kentucky data. After searching, the user would see a screen listing all of the matching names. The caseworker would then have to pick the one that matched their case data to see additional information such as the facility, charges and time to serve. If caseworkers in other states were interested in reviewing an individual incarcerated in Kentucky, they would have to contact the child support division, Department of Corrections or the individual facility where a person was being held.

Now users can access nationwide data from their computer. As the OffenderNet database expands daily, its value is always increasing, allowing staff to obtain correctional data, residential addresses and employment information quickly without a single phone call.

For more information, contact Jacob Van der Oort, supervisor of the Kentucky State Parent Locate Section, at 502-564-2285 xt 4412 or [Jacob.vanderoort@ky.gov](mailto:Jacob.vanderoort@ky.gov).