

MDHS Celebrates August as Child Support Awareness Month

This year, Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) celebrates August as Child Support Awareness Month by continuing to ensure that children in Mississippi receive the emotional and financial support needed to live secure and healthy lives. In 2016, MDHS served over 350,000 children by collecting more than \$360 million dollars. Additionally, MDHS has developed a generation plus approach to work across existing programs to provide both families with the tools they need to become self-sufficient, such as connecting them to workforce training, educational opportunities, and a collaborative, family-centered approach towards providing services. “Through this generation plus approach, Mississippi is working towards building a healthy Mississippi through a multi-generational, collaborative approach that addresses the barriers associated with poverty and an intentional focus on working with the family as a whole,” said John Davis, Executive Director of MDHS.

The Child Support program has changed dramatically over the past decade, with more emphasis being placed on children having healthy relationships with both parents. By ensuring that noncustodial parents are included in the child support process, MDHS aims to encourage strong relationships between children and both of their parents. MDHS is revamping its “Access to Visitation Program” which will serve more noncustodial parents statewide by assisting them in gaining increased access to and visitation with their children.

“It’s exciting to have the opportunity to be a part of the transformation that is occurring in the Child Support Program and at MDHS,” said Lyndsy Irwin, Director of the Child Support Program. “MDHS has a great team of staff and stakeholders who are committed to improving our services to serve families holistically which will lead to better outcomes for children and families.”

MDHS has also implemented new payment options to make it easier for parents who owe support to make payments, such as iPayOnline and PayNearMe. iPayOnline allows parents and employers to set-up payments to be drafted from a bank account electronically.

PayNearMe, the leading provider of electronic cash processing services for businesses and organizations since 2009, is excited to be one of the latest payment options for Mississippi Child Support. PayNearMe enables non-custodial parents to pay for child support with cash at nearly 27,000 locations nationwide including CVS and Family Dollar stores.

"PayNearMe is pleased to work with the State of Mississippi to offer new cash payment alternatives," said Mike Kaplan, Senior Vice President of Merchant Processing. "By adding a significant number of payment locations right in their neighborhood, people can pay their child support anytime day or night without waiting in long lines."

To learn more about the Child Support Program, please visit <http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/child-support/> or call 1-877-882-4916.

Information about payment options is available at <http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/child-support/choose-a-payment-option/>

To learn more about the Mississippi Access to Visitation Program, please visit [http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/child-support/mississippi-access-visitation-program-\(mav-p\)/](http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/child-support/mississippi-access-visitation-program-(mav-p)/) or call 1-800-590-0818.

About PayNearMe

[PayNearMe](#), a brand of [Handle Financial](#), has been enabling government agencies and businesses to accept cash payments remotely since 2009. Using PayNearMe, consumers can make payments on their own schedule, in their own neighborhood, at one of 27,000 trusted locations in the U.S., which include CVS Pharmacy®, 7-Eleven®, Family Dollar®, Casey's General Stores and ACE Cash Express stores. PayNearMe processes cash payments for the IRS, Comcast, Greyhound, Oportun and the California Department of Child Support Services, among others.

Follow PayNearMe on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#). Follow Handle Financial on Twitter @[HandleFin](#).

© 2017 Handle Financial, Inc. All rights reserved. Other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners.