

Great Game of Huddle Notes
June 18, 2019

Angie started today's Huddle by introducing two key members of the Springfield Regional Prosecutors' Child Support Office (SRPCSO), Lara Fors, First APA, and Tracy Ison, Office Manager.

Lara stated off by telling us the overview of the IV-D Program, SRPCSO, and Greene County Partners.

- The work by this Office is part of a federal program, under the US Social Security Act, enacted August 14, 1935 during the first term of President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- In 1975 Amendment: Title IV—Grants to States for Aid and Services to Needy Families with Children and for Child-Welfare Services
 - Part D: Child Support and Establishment of Paternity, 42 U.S.C. 651 et seq
 - So, in order for states to continue to receive funds from the federal government to distribute to the fatherless families, a state would have to start a IV-D agency (compliant with Title IV-D of the Act) to recoup money from the fathers to pay back the government
 - The program has changed to be not about debt recovery, but family support; almost all child support paid goes to the family
- Not only the states have the IV-D program; Washington DC plus
 - US territories: Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands (very active) and 5 others;
 - 61 federally recognized Indian tribes
- The Prosecutor Offices in MO partner with FSD using a cooperative agreement with PA performance and FSD financial support requirements
- PA duties v. AG duties—when FSD exhausts all their administrative remedies and still need judicial action, FSD will refer to:
 - Prosecuting Attorney Offices for paternity and/or support establishment and judicial enforcement or orders
 - Attorney General Offices for modifications of judicial orders, contempt actions against employers, professional license suspensions;
- It is free to families to apply for MO FSD services
- SRPCSO also does the PA work for Christian and Taney Counties
 - Three APAs are assigned to Greene County courts and one APA travels to Christian and Taney.

SRPCSO also partners with Good Dads, a fatherhood program in Springfield, (sends referrals)

- Dr Jennifer Baker, Founder of Good Dads; there's a special program for IV-D cases, called New Pathways for Good Dads
- It's a 16 week program to teach them how to be the best man, employee, and dad they can be

Questions from the audience:

1. Circuit Clerk (GCCC) vs Family Support Payment Center (FSPC)
 - a. If the GCCC's office takes a child support payment, do they send it to the custodial parent?
 - i. No; the GCCC forwards the money to the FSPC; the FSPC is the official record keeper of all child support payments and follows the federal laws of distribution so that if the non-custodial parent has more than one case, the right amount goes to each
 - b. The law changed in the early 2000s to require that all child support be paid through the Family Support Payment Center
2. What are the penalties if the person does not pay court-ordered child support (cs)?
 - Civil contempt--they can be incarcerated until the purge amount is paid
 - Criminal non support
 - Misdemeanor—up to one year in county jail
 - Felony, Class E—sentence is 2-4 years in the DOC
 - Fines for each, but we do not ever request money paid other than to cs