



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

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Immediate Release

September 4, 2008

Clermont County Diversion Program Recognized by State

Batavia, Ohio. Clermont County's *Criminal Non Support Diversion Program* – a collaborative program administered by Common Pleas Court, the Prosecutor's Office, and Child Support Enforcement- will be recognized by the Ohio Child Support Directors Association, during an awards ceremony on September 18 in Columbus. The program is being recognized as one of ten "Best Practices" in Ohio.

The diversion program is a five year program that was designed by the Court and the Prosecutor's Office in 2003; offenders, who are eligible, are required to plead guilty to the crime and comply with all terms established in the diversion agreement. Upon successful completion of the program, the Prosecutor's Office petitions the Court to enter a dismissal of the case, enabling those who complete the program to avoid a felony conviction.

A total of 21 offenders have completed the program this year (as of May 2008); these individuals paid almost \$247,000 in child support arrearages over the five years. Another 141 offenders were making regular payments and in compliance with the terms of the diversion agreement.

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For additional information about this or other county news, contact Clermont County Communications Director Kathy Lehr at (513) 732-7597 or by e-mail, klehr@co.clermont.oh.us.