

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Deputy Attorney General Barbara Cepeda heads the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) of the Office of the Attorney General. The CSED is composed of seven sections: Administration, Programs, Investigations, Accounting, State Disbursement Unit, Records, and Systems.



*Deputy Attorney General
Barbara P. Cepeda*

The CSED's mission is to collect and timely distribute child support payments; locate non-custodial parents; establish paternity; establish and enforce child and medical support orders; review and modify child support orders; and recover welfare benefits paid on behalf of children.

The CSED will also:

- a) Ensure complete and continuing compliance with federal and local mandates by utilizing the Absent Parent Automated System Information (APASI) and

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) projects;

- b) Continue to develop, support, and maintain the APASI automated child support enforcement system;
- c) Initiate the process of replacing the APASI system by researching other state systems to implement a hybrid, transfer, or replacement system, with the goal of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Division's case management and financial capabilities;
- d) Introduce local child support legislation or improve existing ones that will augment or increase the child support efforts;
- e) Provide adequate training or availability of information for staff to develop and increase their skills and knowledge of the latest programs, practices, and procedures leading to increased child support collections and a decrease in welfare dependency;

- f) Increase collaboration and coordination efforts with private and public organizations; and
- g) Increase awareness and encourage involvement in parental roles and responsibilities.

In 2008, the Division collected \$11,735,874, or roughly \$32,000 per day for Guam's children. This total amount is an increase of almost \$2 million compared to 2007. In 2008, the Division also:

- Collected \$148,540 through the Passport Denial Program;
- Assisted more than 164 non-custodial parents through the Guam Access and Visitation Program;
- Assisted more than 9,600 walk-in clients, or an average of 800 clients per month;
- Processed close to 1,000 wage-withholding orders to employers;
- Initiated close to 80 license suspensions against delinquent non-custodial parents;
- Increased to 1,550 the number of custodial parents under the Kids First Card Program; and
- Conducted 5,400 child support hearings.

In addition, CSED personnel actively participated in community outreach and education activities around the island, including paternity establishment efforts in different villages; and in numerous child-related events, such as Project Kid Care and Headstart Program and parent fairs, throughout the year.

In 2008, proposed Child Support Guidelines were drafted and submitted by the Child Support Guidelines Review Commission to the Legislature, which adopted the guideline recommendations in 2009. The proposed Child Support Guidelines will undoubtedly improve Guam's child support system since the guidelines have not been updated since 1996. The new guidelines make current the cost of raising a child on Guam. The new guidelines also increase the self-support amount for each parent; defines joint custody and fairly appropriates child support in such situations; expands the definition of gross income for persons in the military so children can also share in these benefits; and raises the schedule of child support obligations from \$7,500 to \$15,000 combined adjusted gross income to accommodate high-income parties.

CSED Investigator Gener Cortez has been with the Office for 18 years. Aside from his investigative duties, Gener also participates

and has led several of the Division's educational outreach campaigns.



“Knowing that what I do makes a difference in children’s lives is the most rewarding part of my job,” Gener said. “A lot of what I do assists parents in providing for their children’s needs.”

*CSED Investigator
Gener Cortez*

Child Support Enforcement Division Outreaches in 2008

The CSED in 2008 participated in numerous public education activities that addressed Guam’s child support laws, CSED’s Access and Visitation Program, paternity establishment, and participated in community outreaches at the malls, ethnic-specific gatherings, parent-teacher conferences, and proclamation signings.

- **April 19, 2008** – *Guam Head Start Program Children's Fitness Fair*
- **May 3 & 4, 2008** – *Law Week*
- **May 17, 2008** – *Youth Bash*



- **July 5, 2008** – *Project Kid Care*
- **July 12, 2008** – *Baby Expo Outreach*

Proclamation: Governor Felix P. Camacho, center, joins Attorney General Alicia Limtiaco (to his left), and Deputy Attorney General Barbara P. Cepeda (third from right) and other Child Support Enforcement Division staff following the signing of a proclamation in observance of Child Support Awareness Month in August 2008.

- **August 4, 2008** – *Child Support Awareness Month Proclamation Signing*
- **August 5, 2008** – *K-57 Radio Talk Show w/Patty Arroyo*
- **August 9, 2008** – *Child Support Awareness Month Micronesia Mall Outreach*
- **August 12, 2008** – *Child Support Awareness Month Outreach at Department of Public Health and Social Services*
- **August 16, 2008** – *Child Support Awareness Month Agana Shopping Center – Mall Outreach*

- **August 19, 2008** – *Child Support Awareness Month Outreach at Department of Public Health and Social Services*
- **August 23, 2008** – *Child Support Awareness Month Guam Premier Outlet - Mall Outreach*
- **September 19, 2008** – *Child Support Awareness Month Outreach at Department of Public Health and Social Services*
- **September 20, 2008** – *Community Outreach at Ironwood Estates*
- **October 27, 2008** – *Liguan Elementary Parent-Teacher Conference Outreach*
- **November 1, 2008** – *Guam Head Start Program, Parent Conference*