



# FOCAS

A Partnership of Harris County District Clerk, Family District Courts, Domestic Relations Office, and the Texas Attorney General.

## **“Focus On Collection And Services”**

**The goal of the Harris County District Clerk and its partners is enhancing the collection of child support and improving life for children in separated or divorced families through the FOCAS program.**

**The program monitors and enforces child support utilizing various enforcement tools to ensure continued support for the children.**

**FOCAS also offers assistance with enrolling children in health insurance plans; provides child support reviews; and collects child support through income withholding, tax intercept, contempt and other methods.**

**The following slides will provide more information about the benefits of this outstanding program.**

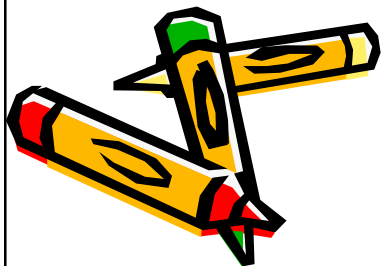
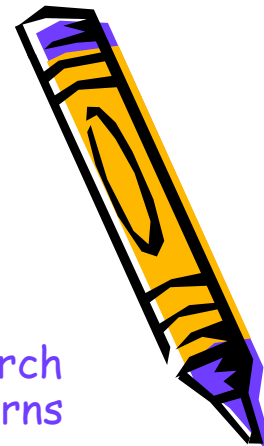
# FOCAS Benefits for CP

- We provide customer service regarding case status, payment research requests, and many other general child support questions and concerns
- A Wage Withholding Writ is sent to the employer on all cases in which the court order contains wage withholding verbiage and provides obligor's employer information
- Review and modify child support orders when a substantial change occurs such as a dependant coming of age or increase/decrease in NCP's wages earned
- Enforcement of child and medical support orders when system updates with an arrears amount
- Various methods can be used to collect on child support arrears such as IRS intercepts, Lotto Intercepts, etc.
- Utilize various resources to locate non-custodial parent



# FOCAS Benefits for NCP

- We provide customer service regarding case status, payment research requests, and many other general child support questions and concerns
- Review and modify Child Support orders when a substantial change occurs such as a dependant coming of age or increase/decrease in earned wages
- Referrals provided for qualifying non-custodial parents to appropriate organizations for educational/employment assistance
- Various payment options offered for convenience such as online credit card and bank draft payments



# FOCAS FAQ's

- How does my case qualify for the FOCAS program?

Under Local Rule 14 the following cases are included in the FOCAS program:

- ✓ Final divorce decrees and paternity orders in which child support has been ordered by *participating courts*, and
- ✓ Existing Friend of the Court files in the 308<sup>th</sup> and 309<sup>th</sup> Family District Court

FOCAS caseload will not include:

- ✗ Existing or closed IV-D (OAG) cases, and
  - ✗ Cases in which the NCP lives outside of the United States
- How do I know my court order is in a *participating FOCAS* court?

The following are participating FOCAS courts and the associated dates the courts became active in the FOCAS program.

308 <sup>th</sup> , 309 <sup>th</sup> , 311 <sup>th</sup>	09/01/2004
246 <sup>th</sup>	07/01/2005
312 <sup>th</sup>	09/01/2005
257 <sup>th</sup>	02/01/2006



# MORE FOCAS FAQ's



- Will I receive information about this program?

Yes. Critical information is mailed to both parties providing information specific to the program.

- Can child support be modified in FOCAS cases?

Yes. The Domestic Relations Office performs child support reviews and modifies support when there has been a material and substantial change in circumstance or every three years.

- Can FOCAS enforce visitation rights?

No. However, you may apply for services with the Domestic Relations Office (DRO) to enforce visitation rights as a private client. For more information, please contact the DRO at 713-755-6757.

- If I opt out of the program, can I opt back in to the program?

No. Once out of the program a parent may not opt back in. However, the custodial parent may apply for child support enforcement services with the DRO or the Office of the Attorney General.



# DIRECT PAYMENTS

## DO's & DON'T's



### DO:

(CP) Provide all information regarding payments made directly to you before and after the obligation start date

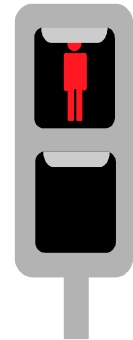
- (NCP) Send all payments to the TXCSDU

### DO NOT:

- (Both) Make or accept payments made directly to you
- (Both) Give or accept gifts in lieu of child support payment

(CP) Instructs custodial parent

(NCP) Instructs non-custodial parent



# COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR OFFICE AND YOU



## CONTACT US:

- For general questions regarding the FOCAS process
- For questions regarding any correspondence received from our office
- For payment questions or concerns regarding your case
- For updating address, name, employer information, etc.

## OUR OFFICE MAY CONTACT YOU:

- If additional information is needed to continue with enforcement services
- To inform you of legal actions
- Regarding payment

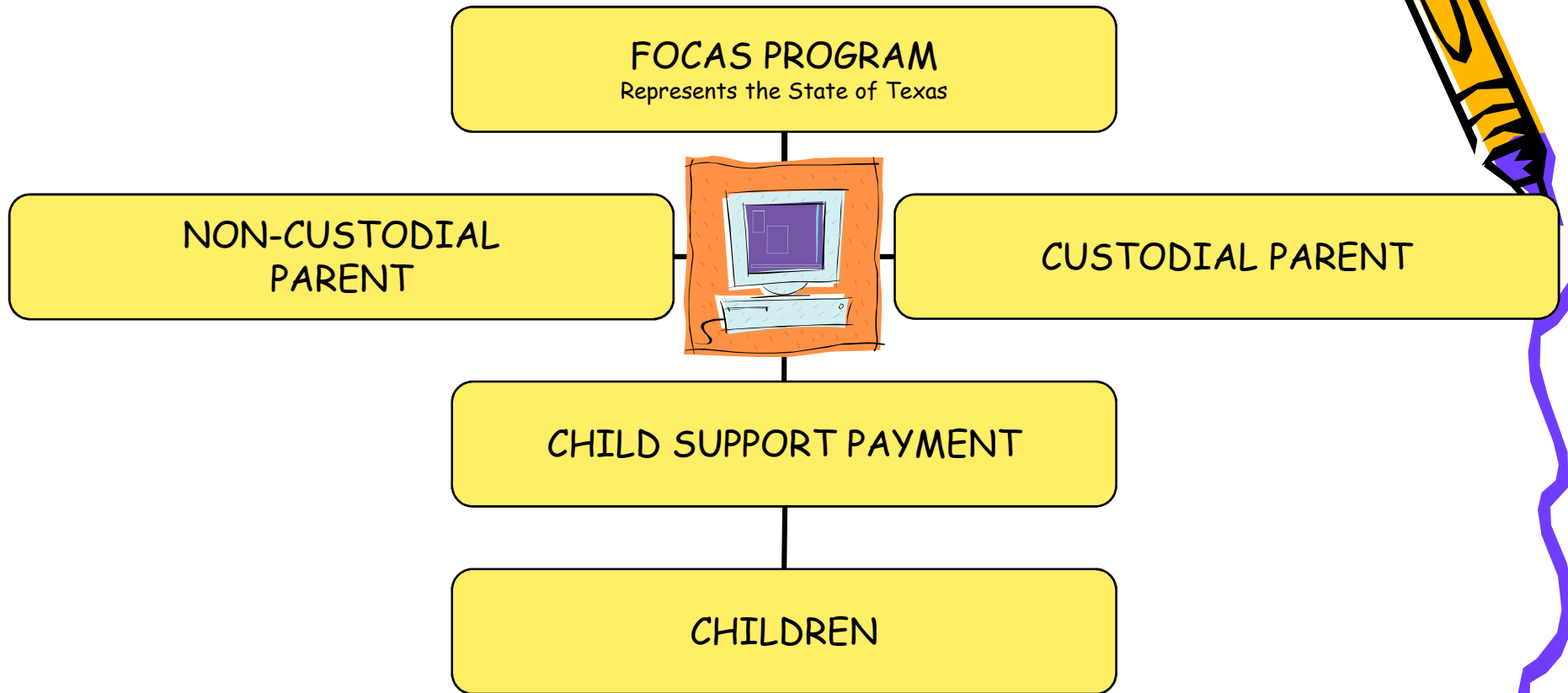


Telephone Number: 713-755-6077

Email: [childsupport@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:childsupport@hcdistrictclerk.com)



# THE BIG PICTURE



The FOCAS Program monitors child support payments made by the non-custodial parent to the custodial parent to ensure payments are paid as court ordered.

Working together to make a difference in the life of a child!



# Payment Information

MAKE PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO:

TEXAS CHILD SUPPORT DISBURSEMENT UNIT ( TXCSDU)  
P.O. Box 659791  
San Antonio, TX 78265-9791

Include the following information with your payment:

- Obligors Name (Person making child support payment)
- Obligee's Name (Person receiving child support payment)
- Harris County Cause Number
- Associated Attorney General Case Number

If you have any additional questions please call (713) 755 - 6077  
or email us at [childsupport@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:childsupport@hcdistrictclerk.com) .

