

Abstract

Connie Brunn, Director; Mary Morrow, Assistant Deputy Administrator; Diane Potts, Deputy Attorney General

A Decade of Progress: Best Practices in Support Recovery

Over the last decade, the philosophy underlying government enforcement of support in the United States has dramatically changed and new best practices in support recovery have emerged. This paper and presentation first will examine the evolved ideology: from government cost recovery to a family-focused model that emphasizes responsible fatherhood, reasonable support terms, external collaborations, and services designed to meet the needs of the modern family. The paper and presentation then will discuss the best practices around the United States, including innovations in government programs, technology, and the law. Top government programs balance the need for centralized enforcement and administrative powers to maximize collections with flexible measures that address and prevent delinquencies. Cutting-edge technology emphasizes electronic processing of cases and payments, electronic storage of information, and automated communication through e-mail, text messaging, and telephone auto-dialing. Progress in the law has included legalizing same sex marriages and partnerships, ensuring that support proceedings are fair to all parties, and addressing visitation along with financial issues. Finally, the paper and presentation will look at how the changes in support recovery programs in the United States impact the international community.