



TEXAS' MOST WANTED CHILD SUPPORT EVADERS

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

LAST MONTH THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S Child Support Division released its annual Top Ten List of Texas' Most Wanted Child Support Evaders. Under Texas law, the attorney general is obligated to release the annual list, which this year names parents who owe a combined \$1.1 million in overdue, court-ordered child support. The subjects are wanted by authorities for violating court orders that require them to pay child support.

Within one day of issuing the new list, two of the ten evaders were behind bars for their child support violations. The public can help locate the remaining eight evaders on the list by calling (866) EVADERS (382-3377), or e-mailing evaders@oag.state.tx.us, to report any information that may lead to the arrest of:

- David Martin, who owes \$404,827 for two children in Floydada;
- Tomas Roman, who owes \$160,928 for two children in Katy;
- Billy Fleming, who owes \$127,383 for three children in Texas City;
- Guadalupe Aceves, who owes \$71,073 for three children in Balch Springs;
- Jorge Hernandez, who owes \$55,267 for five children in El Paso;
- Marcus Spanihel, Jr., who owes \$54,180 for one child in Burton;
- Michelle Falco, who owes \$51,204 for two children in Richardson; and
- Kurt Lindner, who owes \$36,103 for one child in Abilene.

The first evader arrested was Rudy Velez, who surrendered to authorities the day the list was unveiled. Velez owes \$18,351 for the care of a ten-year-old son. He has been sentenced to 90 days in jail for his failure to pay child support.

Child Support Evader Jimmie McCullough was arrested one day after the list's release. McCullough, who owes \$139,881 for the care of two sons, was arrested as the result of an anonymous tip to the Bowie County Sheriff's Office.

Regular child support can make a big difference in the life of a child. That is why it is so crucial that the public contact the Attorney General's Office with any information that could lead to the location and arrest of these Child Support Evaders. It is only right that they be held accountable, not only for breaking the law, but also for violating a sacred trust that should be every child's birthright. Please visit the attorney general's main Web site at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov to view photos and specific information about individual evaders.

To satisfy the Texas Family Code's requirement that certain delinquent cases be released to the public, the OAG's Most Wanted Child Support Evader list helps raise public awareness about noncustodial parents who owe more than \$5,000 and are the subject of an arrest warrant. In addition, parents named to the list have failed to make child support

payments during the previous six months, their locations are unknown, and they are not involved in bankruptcy proceedings or receiving welfare benefits. The parent with custody of the children must sign a confidentiality waiver before the evader can be added to the list.

The Attorney General's Child Support Division works with local law enforcement to locate and incarcerate delinquent parents when courts issue warrants for their arrests. All of the parents on the evader list are wanted on civil or criminal warrants. They face jail time and monetary penalties for failing to pay child support.

The Child Support Evaders on the Top Ten List were selected because they have the ability to take responsibility for their children but refuse to do so. Incarceration is the only option for parents who repeatedly ignore court orders requiring them to pay child support. The Office of the Attorney General helps parents who lack the ability to pay child support by referring them to job training and employment services.

A total of 104 evaders have been arrested or located since I took office in December 2002. With the public's help, we can increase this number and collect the child support that is due to Texas children. Please contact the Office of the Attorney General with tips or information that may lead to the arrests of Texas' Most Wanted Child Support Evaders.

POINTS TO REMEMBER



MOST WANTED EVADERS

CRITERIA: For a parent to be named as a Most Wanted Child Support Evader:

- Court-ordered delinquent support must be in excess of \$5,000
- Arrest warrant must have been issued
- Parent's location is unknown
- Parent has not made any payments in the last six months
- Parent is not involved in bankruptcy proceedings or receiving welfare benefits



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www.texasattorneygeneral.gov



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