

BEST PRACTICES SUBMITTAL FORM
OCDA Fall Conference 2007

County: Stark County CSEA
Submitted By: Gary Cerrone, Hearing Officer
Best Practice: Schedule Establishment Hearings During Paternity Testing

Please Explain Your “Best Practice Procedure” And Summarize The Results Which Have Been Achieved Through This Process:

Please E-Mail Your Submittal Summary to Rob Pierson, Stark County CSEA via GroupWise or piersr01@odjfs.state.oh.us

Best Practice Procedure: Starting January 1, 2006 and continuing thru 2007 Stark County CSEA began to schedule administrative support establishment hearings at the time that paternity tests are conducted. While the parties are present for paternity testing, the CSEA representative determines an available administrative hearing date and time to establish a support order. The representative then provides the parties with a written notice and obtains a waiver of notice from the parties.

Results Achieved:

- 1) Stark County CSEA has shorted the time that it takes to process each case by 30-45 days.
- 2) Reduced the costs associated with obtaining proper service by reducing the cost of certified mail.
- 3) Avoids potential problems of obtaining services on parties that are otherwise difficult to locate and may avoid service of process issues.

At the State Training Conference in Columbus on July 30, 2007 Stark County was recognized by the Office of Child Support for achieving the highest percentage of improvement in Support Order Establishments from FFY 2005 to FFY 2006 in the Metro Caseload Division.

This practice of giving notice of the administrative support hearing when both parties are present for genetic testing is one component of the formula used by Stark County CSEA to be able to achieve the improved performance percentage. Our agency improved from 66.79% in FFY 2005 to 71.31% in FFY 2006 for Support Order Establishments. As of the end of July 2007 (with 2 months to go in FFY 2007) we are at 73.44% for this category.