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NEWS RELEASE

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CHILD SUPPORT IS EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT

D.A. Lynne Abraham and PHA Executive Director Carl Greene Introduce District Attorney's Guide to Obtaining Child Support

February 15, 2005---District Attorney Lynne Abraham and PHA Executive Director Carl Greene today introduced the District Attorney's new Guide to Child Support, a bilingual brochure with information for parents regarding rights and responsibilities about child support. This information applies to all parents, including those who are transitioning from welfare to work.

"Child support is every child's right," said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. Last year the D.A.'s Child Support Enforcement Unit collected more than \$191-million in support money for children. Still, there are many children who are not receiving the support that is their legal birthright."

"We have a large number of single mothers trying to raise families in PHA communities," said PHA Executive Director Carl Greene. "We want those parents to be aware of their child support rights, and we're strongly suggesting they contact the D.A.'s office to get the information."

The Guide to Child Support provides important information about legal rights and responsibilities and answers many frequently-asked questions about child support:

- Who can file for child support?
- Can I file if I am under 18 and have a child?
- How does a judge decide if I get child support?
- How do I prove paternity?
- How much will it cost to file for child support?
- What if I don't know where the other parent lives?
- What if the other parent doesn't live in Philadelphia?
- How long does it take to get child support?
- What if the other parent doesn't pay?

- How much money will I get?

In the year 2004, the District Attorney's Child Support Enforcement Unit:

- Prosecuted 124,863 child support cases
- Collected \$191-million in total monies owed in child support
- Collected \$15-million in Department of Welfare reimbursements
- Collected \$1.5-million in civil settlements, such as personal injury awards or workers compensation
- Collected \$1.6-million from defendants as a condition of release from prison.
- Collected \$357,154 in lieu of incarceration.

“The message we want to send to single mothers—even those who want a clean break from the father—is that you can have that clean break but you are still entitled to support for your children,” said Greene. “We’re talking about money for necessities.”

“We do everything possible to see that every child receives the financial support to which he or she is entitled,” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. “This new pamphlet tells parents how to obtain child support and how to enforce an existing order. Support for our children now means a better future for everyone.”

Pamphlets are available at PHA facilities and at Family Court, 34 South 11th Street.