

# Women's History

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A new Illinois child support bill was signed in August of 2000 by then Governor George Ryan. In February 2003 in Kane County, the first child support case (out of 6,000 child support cases) was scheduled to be considered for felony charges for evasion of court orders.

Statistics demonstrate that child support court orders are not always obeyed. Additional evidence substantiates few legal follow-up efforts.

The book *Deadbeat Dads*, documents how, "Statistics reveal that only 25 percent of the custodial parents who have child support orders ever receive their money. Therefore, 75 percent of the child support orders aren't worth the paper they are printed on." In addition the book states, "eighty-seven percent of the women on welfare are there because they do not get child support."

Research by Lenore Weitzman (*The Divorce Revolution: The Unexpected Social and Economic Consequences for Women and Children in America*), suggests that, "much poverty among divorced women results from continuing judicial preference for mothers as custodial parents, and the states' failure to enforce child support orders."

Child support is not supplemental. Philip Green in *Retrieving Democracy*, asserts, "children have costly needs that go well beyond mere physical supervision and emotional support."

Richard Johnson, a family law state district judge in Dallas advises: "[I]f we do not help the children of divorce, we can expect to see many of them in our criminal courts in the near future." Johnson maintains that approximately 80 percent of the juvenile gang members he sees come from single-parent families. Though, biologically, no child comes from a single parent.