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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—State's Attorney Tom Gibbons is touting the success of his Child Support Division after he was notified by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' (HFS) Division of Child Support Services that the division has again surpassed its goals.

In 2011, the Child Support Division also exceeded the goals set out by the regional office. At the time, the office increased the number of child support cases with active court orders for support by more than four percent - from 82.16 % in October 2010 to 86.45% in September 2011. Since that time—October 2011 to September 2012—the percentage of cases has increased again to 87.24%. The figures also reveal that Madison County is outperforming the state average by over 6%. In addition, Madison County is also outperforming several other regions with similar population sizes.

State's Attorney Gibbons praised the work of his Child Support Division, including Assistant State's Attorney Sinan Alkin who was appointed to lead the division this summer. "Improving the performance of our Child Support Division has been a priority for me," stated Gibbons. He noted that his office had this success despite budget decreases of about 9.5% due to budget constraints for the State of Illinois. "We've made the necessary adjustments by streamlining and reorganizing the division and the results have been impressive. We will continue our performance improvements to keep increasing the level of service we provide to the families and children of Madison County."

HFS' Division of Child Support Services contracts with multiple State's Attorney's Offices throughout the state to enforce and establish support orders along with establishing paternity. From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, the Child Support division collected \$139,766.75 in lump sum collections from non-traditional sources, such as pensions, workers compensation and personal injury claims. And, for 2011, total collections for current support orders totaled \$14,921,582.59 while collections for arrearages totaled \$7,192,187.86.

The Child Support Division consists of five prosecutors and six supporting staff. "I'm fortunate to lead a group of dedicated prosecutors and staff who work hard every day to ensure that Madison County families are getting the money they need to provide for their children."

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