

CHILD SUPPORT IN AMERICA

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The Focus of Child Support in America is collections. Local child support jurisdictions struggle with trying to do less with more while federal funding is predicated on the amount of current support and arrears collected on child support cases. However, the term "child support" should embody all of the essential tools that are fundamental in shaping the fabric of a child such as time and a positive and progressive image emanating from both parents.

Unfortunately, the sad reality is that many non-custodial parents have a sense of disconnect from the day to day lives of their children as well as fail to prioritize their lives and neglect spending time with their children and providing monetary support. Many non-custodial parents that don't reside with their children and/or don't have a cordial relationship with the custodial parent, have an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality and fail to provide these essential tools necessary to foster productive, responsible and progressive young men and women.

Parents **MUST** do everything in their power to make true "child support" a reality in the lives of children! Even if geography hinders a parent from being able to spend physical time with their children, **TEXT** your child/children regularly and make a positive impact on their lives from afar. With bullying and many other social perils that our children may be faced with on a daily basis, it is especially important that we reach out to our children in addition to centering their feet on positive and nurturing steps in the right direction. If you are not a biological parent or if your child/children are older, you can play an intricate role in a child's life- shaping the fabric of a child's overall development. If you have any questions or ideas on how you can assist us in shaping the fabric of a child, please contact us at familyfirst@weareparents.org.

The author, Keino Stephenson, is the founder of WeAreParents.org, A Private Child Support and Consulting Company that assists families, custodial and non-custodial parents, with their child support concerns. Please go to www.weareparents.org for more information.