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NEWS
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**Month of August provides opportunity
for reinstatement of driver's license for individuals
behind in child support payments**

(AKRON) ... A program being offered to allow individuals who are behind in their child support to have their licenses reinstated will also be offered in Summit County. August is *Child Support Awareness Month* and for this month only, individuals can be a part of the "Make a Right Turn: Support Your Kids" campaign by making a child support payment and having their driver's licenses reinstated.

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh stated, "Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) is participating in the "Right Turn" campaign and is urging parents who owe child support and have had their licenses suspended to take advantage of this opportunity. Three months of child support payments are usually required to have your driver's license reinstated, but for the month of August, it only takes one payment. In 2007 alone, Summit County CSEA has suspended 1,406 driver's licenses for not paying child support. Since the license suspension program began in 2003, CSEA has suspended 9,574 licenses (5,179 of those have been reinstated). We hope people will call our office and work out a payment plan to try and put their affairs back in order."

"Over the past few years," Walsh continued, "some Ohio counties have developed a driver's license reinstatement program and have had a positive outcome, with payments increasing with reinstatement versus payments received prior to reinstatement. In Summit County, we have collected almost \$2 million since this program began from parents who wanted to either prevent their licenses from being suspended or who wish to have their licenses reinstated. In many instances, the payments also continued over time. This year's August outreach program was initiated by Senator Smith, and the 12 largest counties in Ohio have agreed to participate.

"The goal of the program is to reach out to obligors whose driver's licenses have been suspended, work with them to meet criteria for reinstatement and in the long run, have them become obligors who comply with their order in the future. Obligor will have to continue to make their child support payments or their licenses will be suspended again."

Walsh concluded, “Call CSEA at 1-800-726-2765 for more information. Make a payment, get your license back, and support your kids. August is the month to make a difference.”