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## Child support law leaves man a default dad



Brande Samuels, 29, shows some of the child support documents from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Samuels has been forced by the state to pay child support for a child but DNA tests show he is not the father. SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World Friday

Child Support Enforcement Division that he owed child support, he said.

Now, Samuels owes about \$13,000 in back child support, he lives with his ailing grandfather and DHS seizes portions of his wages every month.

"The last four years have been the worst in my life," Samuels said about life since leaving prison in 2004. "I went into so much debt."

Samuels said under other circumstances he would take full responsibility for the child as a father should.

But he is not the father.

### 0.00 percent chance

Samuels was aware of the possibility that he might be the father during the pregnancy, he said. But the mother had been in another relationship at the same time.

"She wouldn't even allow me to sign the birth certificate," he said.

By [JARREL WADE](#) *World Staff Writer*  
10/13/2008

Last Modified: 10/13/2008 2:14 AM

Convicted and incarcerated for possession of drugs in 2002, Brande Samuels made a deal.

He promised himself and his family that when he left his prison cell, he would work hard to build a stable and positive life.

After two years in prison, he was released early on good behavior and worked for less than minimum wage while he trained to become a welder.

But that's when he first got notice from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services'

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Two months later, the mother — Nadia Smith — put his name down as the father when she filed for child support, which Samuels wouldn't learn about until after his Oklahoma prison sentence, he said.

"They make (the mother) give up a name for the potential father. If she doesn't give up a name, then she can't get any assistance," Samuels said about the process to receive child support.

Jeff Wagner, spokesman for DHS, said when a mother is opening a child support case, she names the alleged father and provides "a great deal of information" in the Mother's Affidavit of Paternity.

In 2004, when Samuels left prison and learned of his obligation to DHS, case workers told Samuels if he wanted to fight the original order and get a hearing, he needed a lawyer, he said.

"I just want to be heard," he said. "The court was made for justice. It was made to help make the right decision."

Samuels did not have enough money to pay a lawyer, and no one would take his case for free, so in 2006, he approached Neighbor for Neighbor, a Tulsa nonprofit organization. They helped him prepare papers to require the mother to provide the child for a DNA test.

He found out then that the mother had left the state and had to be tracked down. She had left Oklahoma for Texas, Texas for Iowa, and then Iowa for Mississippi between 2004 and 2007, he said.

Neighbor for Neighbor helped Samuels track her through the courts and filed court papers seeking a DNA test from the child in March 2007, according to court records.

Two months later, Samuels received DNA evidence that the child support had been based on a false assumption. He was not the father — 0.00 percent chance.

"I was hurt. I was actually hurt because they put me through all this stuff without the child even being mine," he said.

After his three years of work, he believed he would be forgiven all his debt for the child, he said.

But it wasn't forgiven, and according to Oklahoma law, it won't be forgiven.

## **Default fatherhood**

In child support cases, the burden of proof is on the alleged father — the accused — according to Oklahoma statutes.

An alleged father must appear at a child support hearing to request a paternity test. If he does not appear, he is legally designated as the father and child support is established in most cases.

Once designated as the father, that person is financially responsible for the child until he or she is 18 or adopted with a few stipulations for petitions which may vacate the original order, according to Oklahoma statutes.

DHS records show that Samuels was served papers to appear for his child support hearing in 2001, but Samuels said he was working in Texas at the time and could not have received the notice.

Wagner said by Oklahoma law someone can be legally served if the subpoena is put into the hands of someone 15 or older who lives at the same residence as the person.

But Samuels said the documents never touched his hands.

Regardless of the outcome of the DNA test, which Samuels spent three years trying to get, it was already too late.

Samuels was ruled the default father in 2001, and legally, DNA has no bearing.

"If you got me on default, you should still have to prove that I'm the father," he said.

This is the second recent story in the media of a default father being forced to pay child support in a bureaucratic nightmare with DHS.

The first, reported by The Oklahoman, was about Micheal Thomas of Tulsa, who had shown that he had never even met the mother and that he had DNA evidence that showed he wasn't the father. Still, he became a default father after missing his initial court hearing.

DHS does not keep statistics on the number of established fathers or default fathers who are not genetically related to the child they are responsible for, Wagner said.

In the eyes of the law and DHS, once paternity is established, there is no difference.

DHS officials would not comment on whether any changes have been made in establishing paternity since the Micheal Thomas case was reported.

**Jarrel Wade 581-8310**

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## Paternity figures

Between April 1, 2007, and March 31, the state Department of Human Services established paternity of 20,452 children in Oklahoma —of those cases, 5,208 were forced through court order, according to DHS Child Support Enforcement Division records.

In the same time period, there were 3,127 paternity tests conducted in DHS cases. Of those, 781 of the alleged fathers were found not to be the genetic father and were released from the case.

**By [JARREL WADE](#) World Staff Writer**

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-- [Web Editor Jason Collington](#)

**Isaac Parker**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 4:12:10 AM)

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This article just goes to show that there are irresponsible women, as well as, irresponsible men and the supposedly neutral courts favor irresponsible women when it comes to "absentee" parents.

**seymore1965**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 4:57:26 AM)

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Squeezing money from an innocent third party just seems wrong. No, it is wrong.



**Taxed-2-Death**, (10/13/2008 5:59:03 AM)

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You are not alone. The D.A. will take every action possible to insure you never have the money to hire an attorney. The two children featured (in my case) in chanel 2's "Father's Doy Out" (I believe it was 1993) were displayed as the poor abandoned babies I had no concerns for, not as they really were -- mine, living with me, being supported by me, in my home with no money because my former wife comitted welfare fraud. The children I supposedly abandoned were adopted in 1985, and moved to Italy, all paid for by the USAF, but no sharing of records was allowed. It took over 23 years to clear it up.

Nevada just recently refunded the stimulus check they wrongfully siezed, THIS YEAR, for a 28-year-old child. I got it back -- WE got it back -- but even after all this time, it's still a nightmare. If you have male reproductive organs, you're blanked! It will NEVER, EVER end.

Good luck.

**Kevin**, (10/13/2008 6:10:26 AM)

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I sure wish they would get my wifes ex husband to pay for his kids.He is thousands behind and they wont do anything to him.

**concernedpapa**, Kiefer (10/13/2008 6:26:23 AM)

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If this is indeed the case, and I have no reason to disbelieve it isn't, the legislature needs to adress this peoblem immediatly. To make someone responsible for a child they didn't father is wrong, and saying they are within the law does't make it right.

**HardHeartedHanna**, (10/13/2008 6:36:12 AM)

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So, why isn't the mother guilty of purgery? Where is the real father?

Are there no humans at the Department of Human Services? Sounds like only a computer is running the show. So, start at the top and fire that person. Then ask if this guy still owes child support. If the answer is yes, fire the next person. Repeat.

I hope this guy can stick it out and prevail.



**2curious**, Tulsa, OK 74104 (10/13/2008 6:59:24 AM)

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This is amazing. Utterly, amazing. Can't someone just go into the hall of records and say...we made a mistake...this guy should be removed from the list? I mean, seriously. This is a joke. A DNA tests says 0.00 percent chance he's the father? And we still want him to pay owed child support?

Hell, he didn't even know she put his name on the birth certificate for cryin' out loud!

C'mon...somebody restore my faith in the system. Somebody, show some common sense. SOMEBODY!

Good luck, Mr. Samuels. Hope you get your life back.

**R.D. 01**, (10/13/2008 7:12:47 AM)

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Ask the DHS to help you get visitation. They have no ears to hear you with. They make sure you pay every penny of child support and there is a plethora of punishment if you do not pay up. They do nothing; I mean NOT one \*+^%\$# thing to make sure you get to see the kid either. Why don't they help him get visitation? Isn't this fraud for putting his name down on the lying woman's part? The DHS should be put on trial for discrimination! This is wrong and illegal but not a &^\*#@# thing is done about it. They know the non custodial parents have been finacially mutialated and cannot afford an attorney so we are always treated like \*%#@ matter by the DHS. The court systems do nothing to help non custodial parents. Try to find a denial of visitation form on the Familisintransitions website? It is a joke. They do everything they can to make you hire an attorney instead of helping non custodial parents. I promise you there is no help with visitation. I have

lived it and it is HELL in this state. If someone tells you they do help you with visitation they are not just a liar they are a \*^%^#@ LIAR! I have lived it!



**Dad, Up North** (10/13/2008 7:17:46 AM)

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And some want the government to run healthcare!



**KJNOKIE, TULSA** (10/13/2008 7:22:42 AM)

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This is entirely wrong and should be corrected. The state is an accomplice in the scam.

**righton,** (10/13/2008 7:26:02 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

wherb the DNA test proved he was not the father he should have been able to sue DHS and get his money back. DHS should require a DNA test and not just take a mothers word for it.



**Endora,** Tulsa (10/13/2008 7:28:12 AM)

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Surely there's a lawyer out there that can help . . . would sure put their name in the spotlight!

**momof5,** (10/13/2008 7:35:48 AM)

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I think I will get pregnant and put the wealthiest elected official from Oklahoma on the birth certificate and see how long it takes for the law to be changed. This is totally ridiculous (sp). Why even spend money for a paternity test if they are going to "appoint" a father? What woman would list a crack smokin male with no income as the father when she can get alot more in child support by naming someone who is gainfully employed and a decent citizen! Talk about needing reform, I think I have just about heard it all. I would also like to know, does it work the other way around if a man wants to name just any female as the mother, does that female have to pay child support? Just a thought.

**used to be too,** (10/13/2008 7:39:37 AM)

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Welcome to a state run system. No oversight what so ever. My personal experience with OKDHS Child Support Division has been taxing to say the least. Threats of imprisonment and revocation of my driving license, placing liens on personal property. All of this even when my support payment obligation were/are on time and current. This is business as usual though for non custodial, law abiding parents who ARE doing the right thing.

I have called the Oklahoma City main office and complained and all I got was a letter from my home office that all complaints should be made through them and not the main office. They have no phone listing, only a toll free number that takes days to get a reply.

If I ran my business in the way that this division of the state did, I would be brought to justice in the court system for fraud and simple stupidity.

If there were any state division that resembled mafia tactics, this is it.

**BrentW,** Tulsa (10/13/2008 7:54:17 AM)

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OKDHS and the Oklahoma Child Support Enforcement Agency are a Joke. My wifes ex in teh 8 years we have been married as never been current. We went to court and had the OCSEA take over the garnishments and now he doesnt have a job. Its an all or nothing deal. You either let them handle it or dont. You cant take anything by hand or mail any longer. But they tell you they will enforce the laws and put them in jail for not paying yet unless youc all over and over each month they do nothing but collect money and collect interest off that money because they hold anything large like a tax refund for 30 days before giving it to you. Its a joke and this story does not surprise me. Like the flow above. Her ex is in the thousands behind and at this point has paid nothing in over a year and they yet they do nothing. Why do we even pay them? Its a joke and the whole system is a joke.

**TigerSoccerMom**, (10/13/2008 7:57:57 AM)[Report Comment](#)

It's the Golden Uterus Rule: A woman can lie, manipulate and dupe a man into thinking he's the father and get away with it because she's the muuuther. It's ridiculous. Not only does she get away with it but she's rewarded monetarily with child support. This subject pisses me off to no end.

**Really???**, Broken Arrow (10/13/2008 7:59:57 AM)[Report Comment](#)

This is VERY common. You can sue the mother for fraud and falsifying documents but good luck getting a lawyer to touch it! Plus it is so expensive to go to court and take your chances that most will just pay the child support. However, thank you thank you to services like Neighbor for Neighbor and Legal Alternative that give people the opportunity to afford the legal counsel they are entitled to!

**Taxed-2-Death**, (10/13/2008 8:07:07 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Endora, the simple answer is \$\$\$\$. No money in it. An attorney's expenses would be far more than the share of a refund you might be able to get your client and you can't collect punitive damages from someone that is following the law. The laws need to be changed, but what idiot would survive losing almost all of the female vote -- you know any opponent would spin such an effort way out of context.

**Taxed-2-Death**, (10/13/2008 8:20:03 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Soccer mom... AMEN.  
Really???... you, too.  
HardHearted...conflict of interest, you can't prodsecute your own client. usedtobe...they threaten, yes. They know that if you are arrested you have the right to an attorney and a jury. I spent a whopping 4 hours in jail, until asking for a lawyer. Charges were dismissed, but the collections continued.

**tfromtulsa**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 8:30:01 AM)[Report Comment](#)

momoof5 - "appoint" a father - that's a great way to put it.

DHS is just evil. I hope a competent attorney steps up to the plate and helps out Mr. Samuels. This is unbelievable.

**YAYTulsa**, Catoosa, OK (10/13/2008 8:30:48 AM)[Report Comment](#)

How about a blanket "penis tax" that can benefit all children. Men pay it, children get it. If you're a man who is taking care of children, you benefit from it. No more legal questions about who's baby it is because it doesn't matter. I honestly think that the Mom/Dad system is not the best one due to the frequency with which one of those parties leaves. The Mom/Mom's Family system is better, that's what it ends up being so much of the time anyway. That's a bond a kid can count on.

**QLC**, (10/13/2008 9:34:08 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Boy it is obvious James works for the state. What a great mentality, don't blame me I only follow the procedures in front of me.

Must be nice to believe that everyone can be where the government says you have to be at their convenience for an initial hearing. How is it that everything else is appealable but boy don't miss your initial hearing to deny some liar's claim that you are the father.

James, it sounds like you have the perfect job. Never have to worry or feel shame, just apply the rules and move on. However, you should worry because a machine or monkey can replace you.

**type stretcher**, Sapulpa (10/13/2008 9:49:43 AM)[Report Comment](#)

It should come as no suprise that the Oklahoma Department of Human Services is in a financial mess when it comes to deal with financial responsibility of child support. The mess has been ongoing for the past 15 years and yet nothing has been done to correct the monumental disasters created by DHS, especially in Creek County. A good reporter ought to be able to find case after case where wages have been attached of men who have more than met their parental obligations. Any person caught up in the DHS web better make sure he has the receipts to back up his claims in court. And god help you if you have to go before Creek County Associate District Judge April Sellers White.

**Team Ramrod**, South Tulsa (10/13/2008 9:51:38 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Thanks QLC, your last sentence made me laugh out-loud and is so true. I find that the comments from James from MWC are so representative of the typical trash that work for these low-level government offices. Not very educated, unwilling to use their brain...just there to waste away the hours so that they can collect a check and try to make everyone elses life miserable, just because they are unhappy with their station in life.

**Anna Conda**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 10:04:02 AM)[Report Comment](#)

I guess Lady Justice is too blind to see the facts!

**Swami121658**, Haskell (10/13/2008 10:08:47 AM)[Report Comment](#)

There you go your Oklahoma DHS at it's finest. LOL. Your tax dollars are persecuting a guy that didn't even father the kid. Sounds like a case for the Maury or Jerry Springer show. Take the woman and the DHS Case worker, put them on there and DNA test every one she's slept with until the rightful donor is found. LOL Whata joke!

**Swami121658**, Haskell (10/13/2008 10:09:39 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Anna, I thought you and that judge owner of yours were in court today?

Buwahahahahahahahaha!

**2curious**, Tulsa, OK 74104 (10/13/2008 10:10:26 AM)[Report Comment](#)

James from MWC:

He was in Texas. He wasn't even notified.

Momof5: GREAT IDEA. Make sure you pick someone who might be difficult to notify.

**michael andrew**, (10/13/2008 10:11:28 AM)[Report Comment](#)

i feel this mans pain.....i went through bascially the same thing.  
i have a child & unfortunately i was not the father listed on the birth certificate.  
i paid child support for 5 years, then when her & i had a falling out, i wanted to see my daughter, i wasnt allowed. i went to court & found out that no matter what the dna test showed, the father listed on the birth certificate was the one responsible for child support. even after all i went through, i cant see my little girl until she is 18.  
lord knows DHS, doesnt care about the father. the child is the only thing that matters to them.....  
i hope that oklahoma does something about this because DHS is a joke!

**Anna Conda**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 10:12:40 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Swami - LOL. They [TW] delete all my post on that subject. :(

**michael andrew**, (10/13/2008 10:13:03 AM)[Report Comment](#)

JAMES FROM MWC.....  
i wish you DHS workers really gave a dam\* about the parents of these kids.....  
its your mentality that keeps me from my daughter!

**Anna Conda**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 10:13:22 AM)[Report Comment](#)

They have it all wrong - it was a spitting cobra!

**R.D. 01**, (10/13/2008 10:34:54 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Thanks James for having so much sympathy, empathy. At least you don't have any apathy. You are just like so many people at the DHS. You claim you care and you do so much for everyone. Long as it is a woman somewhere. To hell with a non custodial parent and visitation. (Which the majority are male.) Just pay right? If DHS helped with visitation it would take money away from the lawyers. The legislature can't have that can they? Take bread off the table of attorneys! No way!

You have such a kind heart James! We can all really tell you are so sweet and caring.



**tfromtulsa**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 10:37:33 AM)

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Anna Conda - No offense, but now I see why that lady filed charges.

**Owasso Man**, (10/13/2008 10:53:14 AM)

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The entire DHS system needs to be overhauled. My niece made the mistake of getting pregnant at the age of 16 by a boy the same age. This "young man" has had reckless driving charges, drug charges, disorderly conduct charges and now has been admitted to a psychiatric institute for drug rehabilitation. The judge in Rogers county has given this miscreant unsupervised visitation and refuses to look at any of his illegal behavior due to the fact that he is a minor meanwhile stating that the boy was man enough to get the girl pregnant and has to pay support, which BTW he has paid \$150 out of the court ordered \$15,000. This states DHS system is non functional to say the least.



**QLC**, (10/13/2008 11:30:28 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

Don't worry Owasso Man, they are going to withhold his hunting license until he pays up.



**QLC**, (10/13/2008 11:32:24 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

Maybe they should say you can't play for OU until you are paid up.

**Bill Strader**, (10/13/2008 1:19:39 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

This man is in for a long ride, the Oklahoma DHS is unorganized and do what ever they want to whom ever they for as long as they want. They are a bunch of cruel, evil unqualified people trying to run everyone else's lives with no knowledge of how to run their own. Until we get a governor and a legislature that will do something about these people this kind of injustice will continue.

**tri21mom**, Sapulpa (10/13/2008 1:28:24 PM)

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James:

It is people like you that make the DHS what it is. You see black and white, with no grey areas. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but life doesn't work that way. To work with people, you must first like people and apparently you, and the DHS, have forgotten that. Quit reading the script in the employee handbook and join the real world.

**hillbilly**, (10/13/2008 1:57:16 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

dhs is a joke. i have no respect for the child support enforcement office. dna proves he is not the father and still required to pay! there must be some kind of reform here. the department of human suffering. if i ran my business like dhs i would be out of business.

**Broken Arrow parent**, Broken Arrow (10/13/2008 2:19:03 PM) [Report Comment](#)

Sorry, James, you didn't deserve that. A lot of people don't take the law seriously enough, and they certainly don't take the responsibility of being a parent seriously. He knew he had possibly fathered a child; he didn't know the child wasn't his until years later. So he should have expected that he might need to support the child - whether the courts forced him to or not. He made the choice to (potentially) become a father, and he ignored the consequences. It was irresponsible for him not to find out whether he was the father when the child was born. He moved away and lost track of a child that for all he knew was his. This didn't just happen to him out of the blue.

Yes, DHS has problems. But this is a question of individual responsibility.



**tfromtulsa**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 2:19:21 PM)

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James - You really can't blame the shortcomings of such a failed system on its victims or the citizens that are appalled by its complete lack of competence or reason.

**opinionatedmother**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 2:20:08 PM)

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Okay, I know I am going to catch alot of heck for this. And don't get me wrong, I am not a huge fan of DHS by any means. But I understand where James is coming from. For those of you that think he can just wave his magic wand and make decisions on his own are grossly underestimating the legal system. It is a process, and I have seen many DHS workers quit because they realized that they couldn't change the way things were done. There are laws, you uphold those laws or you are punished. You can't just walk into a government run facility and think that you can do everything on your own. So I think those of you that are attacking James' character are misinformed. Unless you know him personally, I don't see how you stand to do that to someone. Attack their job, or their actions, but never their character.

Now, on a personal note. I am a single mother of an amazing 4 year old son. His father does not pay regular childsupport, never has. As a matter of fact, I have gotten several checks, months apart, for amounts like \$9.51. Are you serious? That is such a waste. DHS does garnish his wages when he has a job, and takes his taxes, but the problem is, two of his other kids mother is on TANF so therefore DHS ALWAYS gets their money before I will ever see a dime. I think that is pathetic because here I am trying to support my child only to have DHS take away his money. That to me is as bad as his father not paying at all. And now, to add to this, his father has not seen or even talked to my son (his choice) in 3 years and now has managed to get a lawyer to take me to court for custody. So now, not only do I not recieve any child support, but my son's father is forcing me to use all of the money I have saved up over the last year for my son's Christmas and birthday, to hire an attorney. When i contacted DHS about this, their exact words were "you are not in our system so you are on your own" meaning I do not draw welfare checks so them helping me would not be beneficial to them.

So yes, I am right there with most of you in my feelings about DHS, but no, I don't think James and only James is the reason for its demise. And I honestly don't think there is much he could do even if he wanted to. Welcome to the great state of Oklahoma. You want to change it, get into politics.

**bighank72**, (10/13/2008 3:30:18 PM)

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It's obvious that some of the respondents have NEVER been in the clutches of DHS. I guess I am an exception to the rule. Let me explain:

I am a DEVOTED father of 4. I have 2 girls in North Carolina and 2 here in Tulsa. I make \$1400 per month and I have a second job. DHS takes \$600 per month from me and the State of North Carolina takes close to \$300 per month. I have to provide insurance for my kids that I cant afford. My children here see me everyday and we go to church every Sunday where I teach Sunday school. I have a car note of \$400 and I'm dead broke. Im a good dad, but the courts treat us like we have no right to want to do better with our lives. I would like to go back to school, travel and pursue interests in my life. All I can do is work and be with my children. And while I love them, dang! Can I catch a break. Lawyers cant help me and DHS wont reconsider. So dont give me that "we deserve what we get" jazz. I dont deserve to live in abject poverty! I am a college-educated veteran and my state and country should treat me better than this! DHS is criminal and they know we fathers can afford to pay their crazy fees and will toss us in jail if we dont. And since my ex gets food stamps and daycare, I have to pay this back, so she doesnt even get half of the money, which puts us futrther in arears! It's a shame.

**Doug K.**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 4:16:02 PM)

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I read your story concerning Mr. Samuels' dealings with DHS with child support. Here is a man trying to deal with many problems and with no support from the state or other public officials. I once worked for the State, there was a common remark when they made a mistake, it was "Well, that's the State". This is one of those situations, he has paid his legal debt, learned a profession but is saddled with the responsibility of child support for a child that he can prove is not his, but the State will not listen to the facts. This kind of bureaucratic blundering just makes my blood boil! I must commend Mr. Samuels for his perseverance. I also hope that one of our caring legislators will attempt to get this law changed, and Ms. Nadia Smith has charges brought against her. She certainly isn't fit to mother a child.

**Roaming Bull**, Ponca City (10/13/2008 4:37:45 PM)

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Anybody want to write a book? Just talk with any Male who has delt with DHS, and you can quickly fill a book with unfair stories, but like this story, you can't fight it. My daughter got her Master's Degree at KU and did her Inturn with Kansas Child Services. Her boses did not want to hear how to correct the problems. They got their job as a gift from an uncle, but didn't know anything about management. Our daughter will never work for DHS again!

I had two girls, oldest age 13, tell me their mother told them to have three children by three fathers, before they turn 21 if they want enough money to live on. Than they won't have to work. The Oldest is 18 and now has a son. Don't worry her college is being paid for by the State, including child care. Their father is still paying child support and air fare as mother took the children 500 miles away aganst court orders, but DHS forces him to pay to fly the kids if he wants to see them.

How do we get this corrected? Write a book to expose these actions in all 50 states.

**bighank72**, (10/13/2008 5:01:55 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

I think it starts here..Tulsa World, Channel 2 and other stations need this brought to their attention and they need to expose the inflated bureaucracy and blatant hipocracy of DHS and the legislators that pass these unfair laws! It's easy for people who dont have to go through this to lump us fathers into the "deadbeat" category without looking at the facts. The child support calculator is a joke. They dont care about what YOU have going on financially in your life or if you even pay child support in another state. I brough ALL that information to their attention and it didnt put a dent in my obligation. We are going to have men going homeless trying to meet their obligation in order to stay out of jail. It's sick! They encourage you to get a second or even third job. So if a man is working all the time, how can he give the children the valuable time that is needed more than anything else? The things we buy will never replace the time we spend with our children.

**bighank72**, (10/13/2008 5:08:54 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

BTW..James, I dont blame YOU for the rules that are in place. I know you have a job to do. My mother works for the DHS downtown branch. He heart breaks for a lot of the single mother she speaks with everyday. But she, like many of her co-workers, feel a lot of the child support guidelines are crazy and grossly unfair. Youre right, we need to take this up with our lawmakers. There needs to be some sort of help for fathers out there. We all cant go out and get lawyers to amend judgements. We need to have some lawyers step up and offer advice, pro bono or discounted services to fathers who want to do the right thing, but have our backs against the wall financially.

**Cali**, (10/13/2008 5:17:18 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

I am sorry to her about Mr. Samuel's dealings. My husband was listed on a DHS case from his ex wife of many years. We too, received a letter from DHS stating he owed several thousand dollars in past due child support. We were then notified of the mother's name, what a surprise.

We advised DHS it wasn't possible and then ended up contacting her "live in boyfriend" who was the actual father, and advised him to contact DHS as we were going to turn them in for fraud.

He did contact DHS, we received a letter showing a zero balance, but yet nothing ever came about the benefits they received, while they committed fraud.

Again, his ex now has three kids, by three different men!!

I am a mother and I believe regardless of income, child support should be calculated 50/50. Why reward one parent for not trying? Why punish the other for trying and working a second job? If you attempt to work a second job, they will calculate your child support on all your income.

Everyone needs to contact the legislators and encourage change!!

**single mother of five**, tulsa (10/13/2008 5:22:06 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

ive delt with child support enforcement for about 5 yrs they gave me the song and dance how they were tryin i got maybe 200.00 the past 5 years then new mexico child support enforcement took the case 2 months ago and bam i get child support new mexico done in 2 months what oklahoma couldnt do in 5 yrs now

oklahoma child support enforcement is bull @#\$% all the way around

**loudshirt**, (10/13/2008 6:49:04 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

I like how after being named the "default" father DNA tests have no bearing. Really how hard would it be to change the law.

It is quite funny how deadbeat dads get such bad press how about the women that dont even know who is the father? If you can not name the father you should have to pay for the DNA tests to figure it out. If you dont want to pay then you better figure something out. (I know that is cruel and will punish the child and is not the perfect system)

The burden of proof needs to change to be more fair to both parties. Men have gotten a raw deal. Yes it takes two to make a baby. There was a case that I am not sure what happened, but it was heading to the Supreme Court. Couple gets pregnant, they discuss the issue and choose to have an abortion (not arguing if that is right or wrong just part of the case) mother changes her mind and has the child now father has to pay child support. If father wanted to keep the child and mother wanted and got an abortion the father would just be out of luck. Point is in the current system for all states the men are hung out to dry. Are there deadbeat dads yes and they need to be dealt with, but just saying someone is the father and by him not showing up for whatever reason boom he is it that is just a bit silly. I think the mothers should have to show a bit more proof before they ruin someones life. Polygraph, DNA test, something more than signing a piece of paper that if they sign they get money and nobody will investigate to see if it is true or if you dont sign then no money for you.



**CA girl**, Broken Arrow (10/13/2008 6:51:16 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

This is the one of the best example of injustice I can think of. Who came up with a law that says a man is the father of a child whose DNA does not match his?

It is absurd and should be changed immediately.

**OklaBoy**, (10/13/2008 7:40:08 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

I was intrigued by this article. How very true about the way our Oklahoma DHS system works. Years ago, I wound up getting a divorce when my wife of 5 1/2 years decided to have an affair with a 16 year old (she was 26 at the time). I couldn't live with a woman with this type of social life. Despite my and the boys fathers disapproval, my ex and the boys mother could see no wrong. After the divorce, my ex sought state assistance due to the lack of desire to work. I had been paying all the utilities, groceries, gas, (her choice for Child Support) etc at that time. I was taken to court (rather steam rolled at the DHS office, because I was advised no attorney was required) in Newkirk Ok. I supplied all the receipts of expenses for everything over that past year or so. To my complete surprise (I believed in our court system at the time), I was found to be 'A Deadbeat' dad and ordered to pay our wonderful DHS system the entire amount again. (My first hard evidence we had a complete breakdown in our Oklahoma DHS)

Years past and every year or so I supplied DHS with my previous year earnings, current pay stub (the ex was not required to provide) and we did a re-evaluate (the amount she was provided was current minimum wage since she never kept a job) to ensure I was paying enough Child Support. I ended up taking custody of one child due to lack of parental supervision as well as abuse. I spent thousands of dollars due to the fact DHS took the child, placed with me but I had to fight the DHS to keep the child. Back then all DHS would ever say was Family re-unification was their goal. Despite all counselors that saw the children reports stating 'Family re-unification' was not an appropriate measure for my child. I went broke back then. Long story short, the children grew up and I broke ties with the incompetent DHS workers of our state.

Now one of those children is married (for now) to one of those incompetent state workers. My child enlisted in the Armed forces and has been serving our country for the past several years. I was never real excited about my child's choice of mates, but I love my child and accepted the choice. Last year while my child was stationed in another country the mate chose to be unfaithful. Thank the one above no children were conceived in this farce of a matrimony. Well over the past year, this State Worker has chosen to go out to all the bars, drinking and taking anyone home who would have them. This person also was stupid enough to allow pictures of them posted on 'MySpace'. Now when we, as 'a civilized society' who expects us to respect our wonderful DHS system and it workers is about as

hypocritical as ever. Since my child was in another country the salary our US Government paid was sent to (guess who). The entire salary including 'separation pay' (since they were not able to be stationed where both could live or be allowed housing) was sent to the spouse. Every dime was spent at bars, hotels, and who knows what else. When my child came home from over-seas, there was no home to come home to. No spouse to come home to and not a dime to be had. At first I stayed completely out of this dilemma. Then when my child asked for help, I said let me call the DHS office in Oklahoma City. Surely they would think this was not appropriate behavior of one of their DHS workers. I googled the DHS headquarters and found the name of Howard Hendrick as Director of Human Services. I called the number listed and was pleased to hear a comforting voice explain that this was Not something that would be expected of one of our DHS workers, then directed to a different number. That number was answered by a woman who must have been beaten, left to raise kids on here own or whatever, but was completely floored again when she asked what I was expecting her to do and then advised to seek an attorney for my child. Wait a minute maybe our Lawyer association helps keep our DHS system in complete ignorant, incompetent, arrogant employees. Never, Never Again will I expect anything more from this utterly worthless worthless Government Ser

**used to be too,** (10/13/2008 8:23:04 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

I ran out of time this morning, but I want to add to what I saying. A few months ago I received my monthly obligation statement from DHS Child Support Division stating that I have had another child added to my family tree. Only thing is, it is impossible for that to happen. A medical procedure years ago prevents this. I notice that the additional child has the same name as one that I am already paying support on. Go figure that one out. I am also told in this same letter that I am way behind in past child support on this additional child with the same name as the one I am making monthly support payments for.

Has anyone else had problems with the statements being incorrect? Stating that interest is due, or that you are behind on payments when you are not.

But, when you take time to miss employment to get this little mistake straightened out, all you hear from the person in charge of your case number is..."Ok, (as he is typing your information in) What I am looking at shows that you are current and that you owe no interest." At this time I show him the statement I received and he once again says, "What I am looking at shows that you are current and owe no interest." But, when you log-in to the DHS Child Support web site, it still shows that I am late and owe interest.

Confussing isn't it. Tomorrow I go back in, once again, and will try to get them to explain this additional child that I supposable have.

Does the DHS operate using two sets of accounting books? One that they bill by and one that they issue to case workers? Is this done to create more state jobs?

I have moved beyond getting upset with this department, and have come to the conclusion that they really are incompetent and need to be prayed for.



**Bullhead,** Stilwell (10/13/2008 8:36:01 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

DANG! Where is this DHS worker who helped the woman nail this innocent man!?? Just imagine what the DHS worker could do with an ACTUAL absent non-paying father! I have a friend who could use this worker! Cherokee County DHS can't find their butts with both hands! They won't do a DNA test, they LOSE the paperwork twice.. and we've handed this dad to them on a silver platter!

I hope this guy gets loose from this bad karma and can make a decent life for himself. He looks like a good guy and I believe he has learned his lesson.

**Old Tulsa Hand,** (10/13/2008 8:46:30 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

See Los Angeles v. Navarro (2004) 120 Cal.App.4th 246. The LA DA was pulling this on something like 50,000 men per year and succeeding. A man named Navarro refused to fold and sued. He lost. He appealed and won. The Appellant Court stated "they would not sully their hands in support of such an unjust judgment." It cost him about \$30,000 to win.

The County battled back and sued to have it "unpublished," which means hidden so no one can use it. Against extremely high odds two men's issues groups lobbied the legislature very hard to keep it from happening. The won.

A few years later the LA DA was named to the head of the state ethics commission...

**T-Town Brown**, (10/13/2008 8:57:24 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

In no instance should someone take care of a child that is not theirs unless THEY WANT TO DO IT! A person should NOT be forced to take care of OR BE THE SUBSTITUTE FOR ANOTHER PERSON'S CHILD! I am appalled at this story. YOU CANNOT SAY THAT A PERSON IS LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING CARE OF A CHILD THROUGH A DEFAULT JUDGMENT. The first step in establishing paternity SHOULD ALWAYS be a MANDATORY DNA test!

**Old Tulsa Hand**, (10/13/2008 9:37:23 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

All this is driven by the Federal Government demanding a man's name on the form before they will send money to the state to cover the woman's welfare cost.

FOLLOW THE MONEY!!!

In California, when the woman could not or would not name a man, they handed her a phone book and were told to "pick one." Even when a woman was accidentally picked as the biological father, DHS would garnish the paycheck for a year or so while claiming to be hard at work trying to "correct the error." These women never got a dime back.

All this and a lot more was exposed when Navarro refused to be run over. This "Phone Book Dad" spent what was calculated to be his next 10 years net income fighting the state to stop the injustice. The whole story is quite fascinating, which a search on "Navarro" will reveal. Read all you can, write a screenplay/movie script, and become obscenely rich.

The California Alliance for Families and Children, a group primarily focusing on curbing and reversing feminist abuses, worked hard with the legislature to allow a woman who actually did NOT know who the father was, to swear to it and her benefits would not be denied.

**seymore1965**, Tulsa (10/13/2008 9:40:34 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

My friend lost custody of her son to the son's dad due to an illness several years ago. She moved out of state with relatives for about 8 months. She had a bad back and couldn't work. She moved back to Oklahoma with a surprise debt of backpay to child support. While back in Oklahoma, she was awarded social security disability the first try because she was "severely" disabled. Once child support took control of her bank account. She knew they were after her. Child support was hounding a poor disabled woman, my friend. I helped her to try and avoid the backpay robberies when I could. A week and three days ago my friend passed away due to one of her illnesses. Now she won't be plagued by the relentless debt she owed that uncaring monster called DHS child support. I'm crying now because of the torture she felt by them. She had to die to get away. Now they can't bother her anymore. Rest in peace my friend.

**Old Tulsa Hand**, (10/13/2008 9:47:13 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

When you prove them dead wrong, DHS will quote any statute they can think of to justify what they are doing. When you again prove them wrong, they will pick another statute. If you are persistent enough, you can run them out of statutes in about a year.

HOWEVER, in the end they will simply claim "The Bradley Amendment" prevents any adjustments. It is NOT true, but you are back at square one: \$25,000 in legal fees or shut up and live with it.

It is a totally dishonest game that the state always wins.

**rogerrabbit**, Coffeyville (10/13/2008 10:56:57 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

I,ve had to deal with the incompetent knuckleheads at DHS and sypathize with anyone who gets caught up in the nightmare they call "the system". I had to pay for a child that wasn't mine (20 yrs ago) and tried for several years to get this changed . There is also a huge problem in enforcing a Dad's visitation rights. Oklahoma law concerning child support,visitation and paternity is very out dated,but nothing will be done until enough people make noise in the right places. You need enough people standing together and willing to take this up with whatever lawmaker you can get to listen. Women lobbied for equal rights and won ,so tell me does this sound equal?

**R.D. 01**, (10/13/2008 11:55:54 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

My wife works at a school for pregnant and parenting teenagers here in town. DHS comes into the school every year and gives a high pressure push to these girls to name the "daddy" so they can get their benefits (daycare paid for, more money , etc.). I understand DHS's point; if the state is paying for these kids, the state deserves to get a little bit of money back from these men who fathered them. BUT, they really pressure these girls to file on the dads, or else they don't get subsidized daycare, more money for food for the babies, etc. I wonder sometimes how many of them might not know who the dads are, but feel pressured to put someone down because they need the extra money. And, it's really punishing the child too; not giving them as much help because their parents are young. It's just a messed up system all around.



**badtulsa**, (10/14/2008 12:00:49 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

O no folks, paying for a child that is not yours, if you are stupid enough to be with a woman that can't figure out who the babies daddy is, then you should pay, come on, don't shag with an overused product! At least you didn't get a disease, thats worth every penny you had to pay!

**pueblonative**, (10/14/2008 7:22:31 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

"Hey, don't blame us, we just follow the law."

I believe there were some fellows in Germany who tried that excuse a few decades ago. Didn't work then and doesn't work now. You chose your job. And about helping out the kids let me ask you this: when was the last time you checked up to see that the non custodial parent was getting his fair amount of parenting time. Don't answer, I know the quote by heart: "child support and visitation are two separate issues." Right out of the CSE Handbook. As for the "putative" father. I can and can't believe this happened. CSE views non custodial parents as walking wallets. So what if a little DNA gets in the way. Declare somebody a default fathers, give them garbage service when it comes to the subpoena, and start piling up the debt.

CSE = The Agency that Can't Steal Enough

**R.D. 01**, (10/14/2008 7:55:06 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

James if you have been there 20 years have you ever been to a meeting and asked "Why don't we enforce visitation?" They claim it is a different issue but they don't even consider it an issue. I ran for state representative because I was so fed up with state government but guess what; I didn't have the money. I silk screened my own signs and walked ot over 700 hundred houses but I had been finacially ruined by the outrageous child support for an adopted daughter and son. I paid for the daughter but her mom let her see her biological father that had been to prison. Imagine that? So I have paid for someone else's kid and I am about done with mine. I never missed a payment 100% but the DHS did 0% to help me see my kids. Wow that is really fair. Good job 20 year high ranking DHS person. Must be easy for you to lay your head on your pillow at night. Thanks for taking my tax money too. The time away from my kids cannot be returned it is gone and my father is gone and he adored his grandson that he rarely go to see. I paid it every time! If not I understand I would face a plethora of punishment. My ex faced nothing for the lack of visitation. If I can ever reach a finacial windfall I promise I will use the money I can to change this unfair disgusting system. I will do it for my dad and others that have to be treated like this. It should not happen ever again to anyone. It is unusually cruel and painful!

**jk3**, (10/14/2008 9:35:28 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

If the DHS can make a man into a father and pay child support. Why cant the DHS go after mathers that put ther child (ren) into adopcion pay child support or make the mathers that use the SAFE\_HAVER law pay child support if a women would like to get out of parent hood why cant a father and why cant DHS or why wont DHS go after these mothers for child support and pay back the TAX payers who are paying for every child in forster care

**jk3**, (10/14/2008 9:47:05 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

Sorry about the my first post please read this one  
If the DHS can make a man into a father and pay child support. Why cant the DHS go after mothers that put there child (ren) into adoption pay child support or make the mothers that use the SAFE\_HAVEN law pay child support if a women would like to get out of parent hood why cant a father and why cant DHS or why wont DHS go after these mothers for child support and pay back the TAX payers who are paying for every child in forester care

**okie ridgerunner**, small town (10/14/2008 10:22:19 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

James, -- you are a joke. do what you are told to get your little pay check. even if it is wrong. i guess if they told you to sniff crack or, kill some one you would do it. what a waste of our tax paying money to be paying some one like you.

**okie ridgerunner**, small town (10/14/2008 11:03:24 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

Short and fast. The DHS is legal criminals. and the ones over them are the god fathers. most are not educated for the jobs they do. ----- and James what ever they pay you is too much.

**okie ridgerunner**, small town (10/14/2008 11:15:21 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

What they are doing to theses two men is nothing but wrong. - DHS is criminal. i raised my son my self on low pay. i did not ask for child support from his mother who did not want him. she would not have had enough left to live on her self. and i did not ask any help from DHS. i just did the best i could, and he turned out fine. right is right and wrong is wrong. i prayed a lot.

**kyote**, (10/14/2008 11:25:39 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

The DHS has no leadership and unqualified workers. Our state leaders are afraid of them and will do nothing to upset their little kingdom. I think it is time the whole system is revamped from top to bottom and we elected people who will stand up to this rogue department of our government that is wasting our tax dollars.

**kyote**, (10/14/2008 11:26:24 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

The DHS has no leadership and unqualified workers. Our state leaders are afraid of them and will do nothing to upset their little kingdom. I think it is time the whole system is revamped from top to bottom and we elected people who will stand up to this rogue department of our government that is wasting our tax dollars.

**CC1**, (10/14/2008 2:09:50 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

Wow...now I know why so many women keep having baby after baby...when they don't even look like they can afford one! Just pick a name of a man and say he's the father!  
Free Money!!

**Holly Cow**, sapulpa (10/14/2008 2:22:32 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

My ex-husband Duane Monks owes me \$13,000 plus and refuses to pay. DHS is involved, but he has only paid about \$800.00 for 2008 and even less than that in previous years and DHS has done nothing but put his DL on probation. My daughter is 18 1/2 it sure would be nice to have some of that money for college. He changes jobs every three months so by the time the paper work comes through for automatic withdraw he is onto his new job. Where is the justice.

**helpdads**, (10/14/2008 2:36:42 PM)

[Report Comment](#)

Its all about the money. THATS IT. Nothing more, nothing less. NOT just here in Ok. but nation wide. All Clinton did was make the Attorney Generals office a legal collection agency. If it wasn't for the interest in the arreages, they wouldn't care.

**Tammy1202**, (10/14/2008 4:18:36 PM)[Report Comment](#)

So James..Do you have to take a test before you get a job at DHA, and if you pass the 'I don't have a heart/I don't give a \*#@# about anyone but myself' portion of it you automatically get the job?? Just wondering because you comment ticked me off more than the actual story did. Did you not read the story? First of all, he never received the papers. How could he have shown up for court? You are unbelievable. DHS is a HUGE joke and it is because of idiots like you.

**evolve**, (10/14/2008 5:35:32 PM)[Report Comment](#)

remember back in england when they sent people to a debtor's prison  
history repeats itself everyday. If you don't believe me you should go to a child support court hearing  
My kids were taken 1000 miles from me and I still must represent myself every 30 days or ill go to the debtor's prison

**What in the World!**, Hometown Tulsa / Edmond (10/14/2008 6:12:11 PM)[Report Comment](#)

He should have kept it in his pants like Clinton.

**tinarae671**, DFW (10/14/2008 7:26:09 PM)[Report Comment](#)

These women have committed FRAUD and they should have to pay back EVERY penny to both DHS and the father! How backwards is Oklahoma that the courts would allow such and injustice! There are fathers out there doing the right thing and paying their child support even under the worst domestic situations with "baby-mama" - Irresponsible tramps like that give real women a bad name!

**the insider**, (10/15/2008 9:18:06 AM)[Report Comment](#)

Maybe part of the reason james is getting so much flack is not because of his job;but because of his jerk comment's....If a person misses a single hearing for WHATEVER reason (even if it's because they were never served with summon's paper's which is another denial of his due process),then they DESERVE to support other people's children despite proof he is not the father and he has very little sympathy for them.

I suspect that's because James is just there to draw a paycheck as many of the other cps/okdhs employee's.

I suspect that james also know's (as he talk's about us sitting around doing nothing but bi#ch while he's doing nothing but bi#ch that it's all our fault) that it will take a LOT from BOTH inside okdhs/cps as well as from outside.

Jame's, perhap's you had not noticed; but we HAVE been doing something about it.....

that's why there are presently numerous lawsuit's against numerous okdhs/cps entity's right now.

Also there is the j.a.i.l.4judge's movement which has for year's been trying to bring accountability to "the stupid judge's" to which jame's refers to.

I suspect that james also know's that the best way to get these law's changed so that they are no longer unjust would be a collaboration between citizen's and okdhs/cps so they could work TOGETHER to create better law's.

But it AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!!!Wanna know why? Because the clue is in james statement about how much money child support collection's bring's into the the state's coffer's.

They have a VERY vested financial interest in legally trampling citizen's right's and those of their familie's via immoral law's for BIG financial gain!

Beside's it's much easier to put the financial screw's to someone who's a little more stable than to spend lot's of money trying to track down some deadbeat (real) parent;

only to find they are unemployed.

Where's the money in that?

Now certainly James did not create these horrible laws;but he IS just as guilty as he claims the rest of us are.

He justifies his action's and insensitivity by simply shrugging his shoulder's and blaming it on "us" and "the system" because of laws that will probably never change no matter how much we complain or lobby.

He accuses us all of not participating in government while completely unaware of any of the many ongoing citizen's groups working to change the very law's he

blames on "us",  
while he (even with his intimate knowledge of the situation) does nothing himself.

James has (perhap's?) forgotten that we are not the enemy either; in fact we are his employer's!

If it seem's that I have drawn a lot of assumptions about James (although I stand by EVERY one of them),perhap's it is because he has taken such a liberty as to do the same to "us".

He is BOTH a citizen of ok. as well as a dhs employee and is therefore in a VERY UNIQUE POSITION TO HELP BRING A CHANGE to these unfair and immoral law's he enforce's;yet he does nothing more to help than to sit around and point finger's at everyone else while he acuses them of the same.

Jame's I know it's a rough, thankless job (more than you know); but you should remember something;you work for the citizen's of this state. This means WHETHER WE VOTE OR NOT YOU ARE STILL PAID WITH OUR TAX DOLLAR'S!Therefore we STILL have a right to complain (albeit not as much), regardless of if you like it or not.

Nobody asked you to sign on for the job,and quite frankly, with your attitude toward's we the citizen's;I have little sympathy for you either.

I will say for the record that I have great respect for most of the okdhs employees I have met;at least the one's who arent blindly arrogant to the general public whom they serve.

I look forward to responding to your next baseless and unfounded accusatory statement.

**Rex Brinley junior**, (10/15/2008 9:36:30 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

I'm not sure if its in Oklahoma but once a lady says a man is the father, DHS establishes it as fact and works from there on. That is the point of the flaw in the system. In the Micheal Thomas, he didn't even know the lady but they have been criminally harassing him for years. I look forward to that case as an attorney is taking it pro-bono to make an example of the workers in the case. We need to pass new legislation to personally hold DHS workers accountable. When they go out and screw people like Micheal Thomas, they need to loose a part of their state pay as punishment for doing a BAD job. Make it court judgment so if they quit the DHS it follows them wherever they go. Micheal Thomas should get at least 10 percent of every DHS worker's pay who assaulted him relentlessly the past years. Those workers were no different than a bank robber or mugger. Those people are criminals and deserve whatever punishment we can legally give them.

**marine2.0**, (10/15/2008 10:51:26 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

How does this not violate the constitution? Guilty until proven innocent. As opposed to proven him the father he is required to prove that he is not? What rule of law does OKDHS follow? Where is the due process? This did not just happen over night either. All those morons in the upper offices of OKDHS were fully aware of the stipulation and did nothing about it. What idiot could have come up with a concept of a "default father"?

**marine2.0**, (10/15/2008 11:08:39 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

Hey, James. Most people that miss their court hearings are issued a warrant and a new hearing. They are not immediately found guilty and sentenced for life. So your statement that people should show up for their hearings is hollow and callous. Of course they should show up for the hearing but they should also be afforded the same rule of law as anyone else. Instead in this particular case he was found guilty without any sufficient evidence. Sometimes, in your case, you have to know when to shut-up and stop defending a losing point.

**marine2.0**, (10/15/2008 11:20:23 AM)

[Report Comment](#)

Oh, and one more thing that I left out. For all the parents that complain about DHS taking so much money from them or the ones that complain that the fathers don't pay for their multiple children. Stop having so many children! It is hard to sympathize with someone that has four, five, six children and somehow is finding it hard to support themselves.

**opinionatedmother**, Tulsa (10/15/2008 2:20:01 PM) [Report Comment](#)

Marine2.0. All I am going to ask is "who the heck do you think you are?" Some of your comments on articles are absolutely ridiculous. Its like you seriously think you are god and your word is commandment. Your last comment, how do you have the right to judge others when you don't even know them or thier situations? I could definetly put a "profile" together about you, but unlike you, I don't judge people.

**pueblonative**, (10/15/2008 3:24:06 PM) [Report Comment](#)

And of course, James, when we do change the law people like you will turn around and scream that the state will lose all of its extortion money. . .ERR matching Title IV-D dollars because they are out of compliance with the federal standards. Not to mention the fact that even if you change the laws in one state, as long as your state has open borders it won't matter to those people with out of state claims.

And by the way in regards to this quote:  
"Personally, I have very little sympathy for Mr. Samuels or Mr. Thomas. The MOST important thing that any person can remember concerning child paternity hearings is DO NOT MISS YOUR INITIAL HEARING. If you don't show up, by law, you are named the absent parent and put through the meat grinder. Don't like it, change the law."

So if she named Bill Gates or Warren Buffet as the father and THEY failed to show up they could be named the default father? Yeah, that really makes sense. And we wonder why the system is so screwed up.

**joemaflage**, montague (10/19/2008 11:47:31 PM) [Report Comment](#)

This all comes down to federal incentive funds that basically pay the states to create negative outcomes. We have so many single parent homes not because parents actually run away from thier kids but because they are forced away thru the courts. Then we have unconstitutional laws to expedite the ease of due process to benefit the system not the accused to recieve more of these funds. Look up Title IV-D of the social security act and you will understand why our family court system is so messed up. or check out my site and the numerous links listed on it to find out more about this.

[myspace/familyrights](#)  
children need both parents and the system should not benefit from ripping fit parents from children or creating deadbeats for profit.

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