

NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY

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**“BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD”
LOST CHILD SUPPORT COSTS \$1.3 BILLION**

Santa Ana, California---The elephant in the room that defies recognition is the \$1.3 billion of unpaid child support in Orange County. To make things worse, the past attempts to collect have alienated fathers from their children as they flee into anonymity to avoid collection efforts. Children raised without fathers have led to some severe social problems which cost even more than the \$1.3 billion short fall in support payments.

The Orange County Grand Jury has made a persuasive case to Orange County Child Support Services and Mental Health Services Agency for corrective action. The thesis is to seek orders in which fathers participate in their children’s lives. Statistics show that participating fathers both pay support and lead their children on more healthy productive pathways.

The Grand Jury report, including Findings/Conclusions and Recommendations, can be found on the Orange County Grand Jury’s website, www.ocgrandjury.org. This report will also be included as part of the Final Report of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury, to be published later this year.

2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Garcia".

Raymond Garcia
Foreman