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Mission Statement: To Accomplish the Most Caring and Effective use of Finite Resources Upon an Infinite Problem.

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Prosecuting Attorney Dwight Scroggins today announced that beginning February **1,2010**, the Child Support Division of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office will be closed two days each month. This closure is a result of budget cuts by the Department of Social Services, Family Support Division, the State agency which funds our local child support services. The State cut more than 2 million dollars statewide from prosecutor's child support programs including over \$104,000 from our local prosecutor's child support office.

"We looked at several different options on how to address the budget cuts", said Scroggins. "None were good but this is the best way in which to make the cuts and still maintain the highest level of service for the children involved in our program", said Scroggins.

"The budget cuts would require eliminating 3 full time positions or have every employee in the department take two unpaid leave days per month. The jobs are so inter-related it was determined having people gone every day would be so inefficient it was better to simply close two days each month and try and make up the work as a full office team during the remaining work days", said Scroggins.

"We have the highest caseload per employee among prosecutor's offices and have lost 9 positions over the last seven years including another position this past year. One of two child support attorneys has just resigned and taken a position with the Public Defender's Office. Within 12 months he will be making more money, have a much smaller caseload and not face the prospect of job loss since the Legislature is considering increasing the Public Defender's budget by 2 million dollars. It's hard to argue with his logic", said Scroggins.

"Our office handles over 5,500 active child support cases and has continued to excel doing the work", said Scroggins. "We have offset earlier losses by continuing to improve our process and through the use of new technologies. But we are at the point where these cuts are substantially affecting our ability to help the children involved", said Scroggins.

"We know these are difficult times for families, businesses and for government. We will do what everyone else is doing. We will work harder and more efficiently with the resources we are given", said Scroggins.