

# Province will pull deadbeat parent's driver's licences

The Ontario government will begin to phase in driver's licence suspension for those drivers failing to pay their child support, Attorney General Charles Harnick announced this week. The tough new sanction is a key element in the provincial government's strategy to ensure support

## PROVINCE

payors meet their legal obligations to their children.

"For years, people have been refusing to pay their child support and as a result more than \$1 billion is owed to children and families.

"This government is transforming the Family Responsibility Office into an aggressive enforcement operation that ensures children and families receive the money to which they are entitled," said Harnick.

"We are phasing in this powerful new enforcement tool to help make delinquent parents pay up. The first 100 suspension notices were issued Tuesday, Sept. 30, and several hundred will be mailed out over the coming months."

Within 35 days of the mailing of a suspension notice, a delinquent parent must choose to: pay all arrears, make an arrangement with the Family Responsibility Office to pay all arrears over time, or obtain a court order directing FRO not to suspend their licence while they apply for a variation to their existing support order.

If they fail to do so, they will lose their driver's licence.

"Finally, we have an enforcement measure that makes parents who ignore their child support obligations think twice and either pay up or risk losing their driving privileges," said Heinz Paul, co-founder of Families Against Deadbeats (FAD).

"This government is making a difference for children owed support and we congratulate them for cracking down on delinquent parents to put our children first. This government is doing what it said it would do for us."

Driver's licence suspension will be used in addition to other enforcement tools such as seizing wages (garnishment), credit bureau reporting, and court orders to seize property or personal assets.

The phasing in of this measure is based on the successes and experiences of other jurisdictions.

Each case is assessed individually to ensure that the most suitable and effective enforcement action is taken.

"We are enforcing child support orders and continue to improve the way we provide service to the public," said Harnick.

"We hope that the risk of driver's licence suspension will make people pay their child support so we can get more money to children and families faster."

# Don't think of it as getting older, think of it as saving 15%

This Tuesday, October 7th, you can save 15% on fashions, furniture, linens & more. Plus get no GST\* on major appliances, home electronics, small electrics, personal care, vacuums, broom, infants' wheelgoods.

Offer valid for those 65 years of age or older. Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Bath & Body, concessions & services, Easy Spirit shoes, Eaton Gift Certificates, Jockey and Calvin Klein apparel, men's & women's regular- and sale-priced designer collections, Mont Blanc accessories, Prospector footwear, Royal Velvet towels, Eaton Home towels, Sunglass Hut, watch straps, estate sale- and clearance-priced fine jewellery, Gucci & Prestige watches. \*Eaton's will deduct an amount equivalent to the GST from the total price of your purchase. Excluded from this offer are: Panasonic GAOO TVs, pre-recorded video & audio tapes, CDs and film. These discount offers cannot be combined together or with any other tax savings offer or Eaton Home payment options.

## SENIORS' DAY SALE

