

NEWS RELEASE: Feb. 20, 2008

Regional Child Support Office relocating to downtown Springfield, closed Monday

The Christian Greene Taney Prosecutors Regional Child Support Office will be closed Monday, Feb. 23, for relocation. The office reopens in downtown Springfield Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 313 South Ave, third and fourth floor.

The Greene County, Christian County and Taney County child support offices merged Dec. 29, 2008, and have since been operating out of the Greene County Judicial Courts Facility at 1010 Boonville Ave.

The newly combined office is relocating due to a combination of space constraints and the need to utilize the area within the Judicial Courts Facility to build two new courtrooms. These courtrooms will house visiting judges assigned to Greene County's 31st Judicial Circuit. The first courtroom is expected to be complete by July.

Dennis Tichelkamp, Greene County First Assistant Prosecutor and Director of the Regional Child Support Office, said the relocation works well for the newly expanded office staff.

"Our facilities weren't big enough where we were," said Tichelkamp. "This new location gives us the room we need, so the children we serve can have the future they deserve."

Tichelkamp added that while office visits will take place in the new location, court proceedings continue to take place in the Judicial Courts Facility as well as the Christian County Judicial Center and Taney County Judicial Center.

The new child support office will bring 21 child support employees to downtown Springfield. Greene County leases the space annually for \$110,000, which is fully reimbursed to the county by the Family Support Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services, through the federal Title IV-D program.

"The County Commission is pleased to contribute to downtown Springfield's revitalization by leasing office space and bringing 21 employees into the center city area," said Greene County Presiding Commissioner Dave Coonrod. "With space freed up at the Judicial Courts Facility, the county can begin work on new courtrooms for additional judges, which we so desperately need to address the enormous case load that has been documented in Greene County."

The Regional Child Support Office has authority over establishment and enforcement of child support orders, initiating and responding to Uniform Interstate Family Support Act cases and other requests made by the Missouri Family Support Division.

For more information, call Dennis Tichelkamp, Greene County First Assistant Prosecutor and Director of the Regional Child Support Office, at 417-868-4126 or 417-693-3863; the Greene County Commission at 417-868-4112, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-379-5703.

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