GOVERNMENT OF GUAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AGANA, GUAM

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 84-29

COMMISSION ON CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the primary cause of welfare dependency and economic deprivation as manifested in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program is the absence of the natural father as a result of desertion or divorce and his failure to provide for the support of his children; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the households on public assistance in Guam are headed by women and most of these families are not receiving financial support from the absent parent as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Guam has long recognized the importance of enforcing child support obligations; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that child support orders are obtained and enforced in a timely and consistent manner in order to assist these families in becoming self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of support obligations alleviates the taxpayer burden of supporting these families; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, Guam has made great strides in increasing these support collections, but substantial improvements may still be achieved; and

WHEREAS, an examination of the problems and issues relating to the establishment and enforcement of child support orders is necessary so that legislative and administrative action may be taken to remedy these deficiencies thus increasing the likelihood that all the people of Guam achieve the support and self-sufficiency to which they are entitled;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDWARD D. REYES, Acting Governor of the Territory of Guam, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Organic Act, do hereby issue this Executive Order to become effective immediately.

- 1. There is hereby established a Commission on Child Support Enforcement. The Commission shall be composed of eleven (11) persons representing a cross section of the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches of Government, as well as those lay persons or organizations who would have a direct interest in such a study. The Governor shall appoint these members, one of whom shall be designated as Chairman.
- 2. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.
- 3. Among other things, the Commission shall study and report to the Governor on enforcement of orders through real property liens, a uniform monthly payment of support standard with annual adjustments for cost of living and any other systems or processes which would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of establishing and collecting child support on Guam.
- 4. The Commission shall examine and report on the following matters:

The extent to which the child support system has been successful in securing support and parental involvement for children on public assistance programs as well as those not eligible for such programs in regard to visitation, the establishment of appropriate objective standards for support, the enforcement of interstate obligations and the possible need for remedial territorial or federal legislation for child support enforcement.

- 5. The Commission shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations for improving the child support system to the Governor by October 1, 1985. The Commission may issue such interim reports as it considers appropriate.
- 6. All territorial agencies, departments, boards, and commissions are hereby directed to assist and cooperate with the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities.

Signed and promulgated at Agana, Guam this 28th day of November, 1984.

EDWARD D. REYES

Acting Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ

Acting Lieutenant Governor of Guam