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A Father's Day Message

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June 2014-This weekend, families everywhere will gather to celebrate and honor Father's Day. It is a time where we recognize the male figures in our lives and the important roles they play. I reflect back on the fond memories I have of my father and not only what he did for our family, but for our island. He was a police officer who worked to protect the lives of all the residents of Guam.

In August, my Office celebrates Child Support Awareness Month. While non-custodial parents (NCPs) include mothers and fathers, much of this awareness focuses on the father and his role as an active participant in a child's life. That is because fathers make up the majority of NCPs.

Financial support is critical is a child's life, but the emotional and psychological support required of a father as well as the mother is paramount to the healthy development of that child. Over the last several years, there has been a major change in the overall attitude where instead of sanctioning fathers for non-payment, we are doing what we can to include them in their child's life. The more we do that, the more likely the father will remain in his child's life, and that there will be a greater likelihood that with both parents in his or her life, the greater the chance that child will thrive and grow up to be healthy adult.

Happy Father's Day!

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