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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“BUY TO FLY” Passport Denial Amnesty Program Kicks Off Child Support Awareness Month Offering Incentive to Parents with Child Support Arrears

Hagatna, Guam- To celebrate Child Support Awareness Month, the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) announces that for the entire month of August, noncustodial parents who wish to be removed from the Passport Denial Program can now apply for the “BUY TO FLY” child support amnesty program.

In 2011, 25 parents who wished to get their passports released collectively paid \$96,460. During this same time period, there were 2,470 passport cases submitted, totaling to a little over \$54 million in owed child support arrears.

“As an enforcement tool, passport denial is highly effective, it brought in a lot of money for our children, and that was just 25 parents!” said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas. “You can imagine how wonderful it would be to assist all 2,470 cases and get that money to the children, who need and deserve it.”

The Passport Denial Program, which is part of the Federal Offset Program, is designed to help enforce delinquent child support obligations. Under the program, noncustodial parents having arrearages exceeding \$2,500 are submitted by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) to the Department of State (DoS), which denies them U.S. passports upon application or the use of a passport service. Noncustodial parents are not automatically removed from the Passport Denial Program even if their arrearages fall below the \$2,500 threshold.

Anyone who is interested in applying for the program can get the application at the Child Support Office in Hagatna or online at www.guamcse.net. The BUY TO FLY application must be filled out and submitted to the Office of the Attorney General no later than August 31, 2012, at 5p.m.

Upon submittal to the OAG-CSED, approximately 2 weeks is needed to determine which applicants qualify as it is done on a case-by-case basis. Not all applicants may be eligible for the program, however, once awarded; payment must be made for the program arrangements to take effect. The “BUY TO FLY” Program becomes void if the terms of agreement are broken and the passport denial terms go back into effect.

For more information on the “BUY TO FLY” amnesty program, please visit us at our office located at 287 W. O’Brien Dr. in Hagatna, on our website at www.guamcse.net or call 475-3360 ext 1020.

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