



CHILD SUPPORT EVADER RICHARD FESTA

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

ATTORNEY GENERAL GREG ABBOTT NEEDS



your help locating Child Support Evader Richard Festa, one of the Most Wanted Child Support Evaders in Texas. Festa, who was added to the Child Support Evader's

list in January 2012, owes \$47,023 for the care of his 18-year-old son.

When the parent's divorced in 1998, Festa was ordered to pay \$770 per month in child support. Festa, who had the ability to make his payments, did not follow the court's order to support his son financially. By 2002, he owed more than \$13,000 in unpaid child support. As a result of his noncompliance, the child's mother requested help from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to enforce the child support order.

The OAG filed legal action against Festa and obtained a probated sentence that required the delinquent father to begin paying his debt according to a monthly repayment plan. Festa did not comply with the terms of his probation and a civil arrest warrant was issued. Festa's location has been unknown since August 2007, when he was arrested in Dallas County and

posted a \$7,613 cash bond.

After exhausting all civil remedies to gain compliance with the child support order, investigators with the OAG's Child Support Division presented Festa's case to the Orange County District Attorney and a criminal indictment was obtained. Festa is now wanted on felony charges for nonpayment of child support

Festa has not made a child support payment since August 2007, when he made a one-time payment of \$7,000 to get out of jail. By refusing to provide the financial resources his son needs, Festa has turned his back on him and violated the law. A combination of missed payments and interest that accrues on unpaid child support adds up to more than \$47,000 in unpaid child support Festa now owes.

Investigators from the Attorney General's Office have searched the state for Festa. His two last known addresses were in Richardson and Delray, Fla. He may be working for cash or self-employed to avoid garnishment of wages to pay child support. Contact the Attorney General's Office at (866) EVADERS (382-3377) to report information that may lead to the arrest of Richard Festa.

Last AddressDelray Beach, FL and Richardson, TX
Occupation.....Car Salesman
Born.....7/21/48
Height.....6'0"
Weight.....170 lbs.
Color of Eyes.....Green
Color of Hair.....Brown
Race.....Caucasian
Alias.....Rick Festa

Texas law requires the Office of the Attorney General to publicly identify certain parents who are delinquent in the payment of child support. The Child Support Evaders are selected because they have the ability to take responsibility for their children, but refuse to do so. Incarceration is the only option for parents who repeatedly ignore court orders to pay child support. The Attorney General's Office helps parents who lack the ability to pay child support by referring them to job training and employment services. Visit the agency's Web site www.texasattorneygeneral.gov to find out about other Child Support Evaders, and to obtain information about the Attorney General's Child Support Division.

POINTS TO REMEMBER



MOST WANTED EVADERS

For a parent to be named as a Most Wanted Child Support Evader:

- Court-ordered delinquent support must be in excess of \$5,000
- Arrest warrant must have been issued for nonsupport
- Location of noncustodial parent is unknown
- Parent has not made any payments in the last six months
- Noncustodial parent must not be involved in bankruptcy proceedings
- Noncustodial parent must not be receiving welfare benefits

In order to make child support information public, the custodial parent must sign a confidentiality waiver.

(866) EVADERS (382-3377)
www.texasattorneygeneral.gov



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