The Parent Pledge Project is a partnership between Community Mediation Services, The DOOR, The Children's Aid Society, Saint Paul Community Baptist Church, the Human Resources Administration, the Family Court and the Mayor's Office.

Your immigration status will never be considered at any time during the Parent Pledge Project.

For more information on the Parent Pledge Project, the Mayor's Fatherhood Initiative or NYC Dads, call 311.

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THE PARENT PLEDGE PROJECT

ParentPledge

Make the choice today.

THE PARENT PLEDGE PROJECT

is set up to help you and your child's other parent create child support and parenting agreements. These agreements will be done outside of the court through mediation. In a comfortable community-based setting, a trained mediator will listen to you and the other parent and assist you in choosing solutions that support both parents, and most importantly, your child.

WHY TAKE THE PLEDGE?

- Every parent wants the best for their child.
- It is important to support your child emotionally and financially. Children who have both parents actively involved in their lives are more likely to finish school, stay out of jail, avoid abusing drugs and delay having a child until adulthood.
- Raising your child is very expensive. Most families need two incomes to make ends meet.
- A child support agreement can help make sure your child receives regular child support payments, so that parents can plan and budget.
- Mediation can help parents work out a plan to share the responsibilities and joys of raising a child. This is called co-parenting.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Mediation will take place in a community-based organization or other location in your neighborhood, not in court. It will be more relaxed and will help you find an agreement both of you are happy with.

The trained mediator will explain your rights and responsibilities. The child support obligation will be based on the current income of the parent who does not live with the child (the noncustodial parent). The parenting agreement will be created by the both of you based upon what you feel is in the best interest of your child. Once you reach an agreement, the mediator will have both of you sign it.

You and your child's other parent will go to the Family Court to file your child support agreement. The Court will usually review it on the same day if you arrive before 1pm. They may ask you to come back if they have any questions or if they are unable to review it on the same day.

You can also take advantage of parenting classes that give information about parenting arrangements, ways to communicate better, and the effect conflict has on children. The program is not available if you are custodial parents applying for or receiving cash assistance.

"THEY CHOSE ME."

Take the pledge today. *Give your child a secure future.*