

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



February 14, 2009

### **SHERIFF ARPAIO WARNS: VALENTINE'S DAY WON'T BE SWEET FOR DEADBEATS**

**(Phoenix, AZ.)** When a knock comes to several valley doors this Valentine's Day, the person answering the door won't be getting flowers or chocolates. Instead, he or she will be treated to a trip to jail by a Sheriff's deputy or posse volunteer.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has ordered his volunteer posse and deputies to fan out throughout the county this Valentine's Day to arrest Moms and Dads who have warrants out for their arrests for owing thousands in back pay to their families and refusing to pay.

**"Refusing to care for their children is unacceptable,"** Arpaio says. Arpaio says parents who shirk their financial responsibilities to their children deserve a jail sentence.

**"In today's economic climate, deadbeat parents further over-burden government entities which are struggling to maintain services to the masses,"** Arpaio says. **"It's despicable to shift one's personal responsibilities to the taxpayer which is what deadbeat parents are doing."**

The Sheriff's **"Operation Tough Love"** aims to get as many deadbeats as possible into jail for refusing a court order to pay child support.

**In the last several deadbeat roundups, the Sheriff's Office has netted about 400**

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Pager: (602) 238-8097

E-mail: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)

**deadbeat parent arrests and over \$2.5 million in back child support has been collected for families throughout the county.**

**Saturday's operation is slated to begin in the early morning hours. Forty (40) teams of deputies and volunteer posse members will go to homes through the county looking for these law breakers. The top 15 offenders, Arpaio says, together owe in excess of \$1 million dollars to their children.**

**The Sheriff's command center will be set up at 3325 West Durango. All arrestees will be brought here during the day for booking.**

**Media will be permitted to do ride-alongs with the posse/deputies teams if interested, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. The Sheriff will be available at 12:30PM for comment and will provide operation stats at that time. To schedule a ride along or to talk with the Sheriff, please contact Deputy Doug Matteson at [sheriffsmediarequests@mcs.maricopa.gov](mailto:sheriffsmediarequests@mcs.maricopa.gov)**

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