

SUPPORT

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Willie Huber, a Wings defenseman from 1978-83 and a 10-year NHL veteran, owed about \$15,000 for eight years.

Huber divorced his wife and moved to Canada, where he ignored numerous court dates and child support payments.

In July, the Montreal-based National Hockey League Pension Society turned over \$53,000 to pay back child support for his son, Zachary.

The remaining money will likely be put in a trust to pay future payments.

Findling was appointed receiver in 1995 and had been working to seize the pension for nearly four years.

Huber now is a junior hockey coach in Ontario. He could not be reached for comment.

Oba Carr, a welterweight boxer from Detroit who fought a \$350,000 bout against Oscar de la Hoya in May — losing in the 11th round — owed \$35,000 in back child support for his 11-year-old son in Detroit.

After a judge threatened to appoint Findling, he paid up, Findling said.

Carr, 27, is 48-3-1 and has 28 knock-outs.

Carr's Los Angeles-based manager, Tom Loeffler, said Carr voluntarily paid his back child support for his two children in Detroit. He said Carr made smaller payments after previous fights and then paid the total after the fight in May.

But he disputed that it was Findling's appointment that spurred Carr's payment. "This was voluntary; he had the money and was doing the responsible thing," Loeffler said.

"This is sort of a last resort for people who simply make no effort to pay their child support," said Judge Kirsten Frank Kelley, who heads the family division of the Wayne Circuit Court. "David doesn't give up. He works tirelessly to see that our orders are carried out."

Last summer, the judges in the family division attended a seminar devoted to the subject of receivers and how to appoint them. The number of receivers appointed has since increased dramatically, Kelley said.

Findling doesn't cost taxpayers a dime — he adds the cost of his services to the bill owed by the delinquent parents.

"The idea here is we have a problem and the judges seem committed, the Friend of the Court is working hard and we're all trying to work together," Findling said. Of the 10 to 20 percent of cases he doesn't collect, he isn't paid.

He's also been appointed to collect \$260,000 in unpaid child support from Michael Matthews, a Detroit native and producer of gospel plays.

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Matthews, who lives in Florida and has avoided paying child support by funneling his salary through a corporation owned by his mother, was arrested and charged in May 1998 with failing to pay child support, but the charge was dismissed.

Matthews' failure to pay child support for his 13-year-old son, Michael Jr., was featured on CBS News 48 Hours.

Frances Matthews has collected only a few thousand dollars in the past year. She's had her electricity cut off at times because she didn't have the money to pay the bill and has struggled to make it.

"I'm not fighting him. I am only trying to get what a court said he owes me and my son," Frances Matthews said. She has rejected settlements from Matthews' of less than half the amount owed.

He's believed to be worth \$4.5 million. His attorney, Jennipher Colthirst, did not return calls.

In Oakland County, Findling was appointed to sell off the assets of a man in an unusual divorce case.

Mark Klos was convicted in March of stalking Oakland Circuit Judge Joan E. Young, who was then hearing his divorce case.

The case has since been reassigned to Judge Gene Schnelz, who also heard his aggravated stalking case.

As Klos serves a one-year sentence, Schnelz appointed Findling as receiver to sell off the home to prevent foreclosure.

"Findling is the most conscientious attorney I've known in my 42 years on the job," Schnelz said.

Then Klos sent a letter to Findling that appears to threaten Judge Schnelz and Findling. It's now being investigated by the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Findling said he got a second threatening letter this week from Klos.

"It's all part of the job," Findling said.