

# Plans for Day of Atonement set

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conciliation and responsibility on Oct. 12, in preparation for the holy day.

Farrakhan has asked Nation of Islam ministers and supporters to encourage the atonement process by holding an afternoon rally during which youth from each racial group can address

their elders.

"I am warning America, we are either going to come back to God and repent or God will destroy America as He did those before her and left them as a sign so that America might be guided and warned by their failure to accept guidance and warning attacks and repent," Farrakhan said, adding that he is not worried

about critics' opinion of the Holy Day of Atonement.

"Even if we don't do all that we intended to do or desire to do, we've made a start.

"When we called for a million men to be in Washington, God helped to make it a reality and all the naysayers who said it couldn't happen were there and they saw it happen."

# Juvenile crime costly to relatives

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informed Jane Varner, a Wayne County court administrator. "The parent or custodian has to do a financial statement when they come into court. The state court administrative guidelines and the law say, if they don't fill that out, full cost of care has to be ordered. So consequently you see quite a few orders for astronomical amounts that these parents can't pay," she said.

Varner said that a parent or guardian being billed can bring a petition for rehearing and come back into court and make a request that the bill be modified.

"But many of them don't" Varner said. "Then they get an order to show cause, which is where the parents haven't paid or

given a reason for not making the payments. Then there's a hearing on whether or not the parent can be held in contempt and a garnishment be instituted. What happens at those (hearings) is that the parents try to negotiate a payment arrangement they can make."

Proponents of the measure argue that holding parents and guardians responsible for cost of care helps make them more responsible for raising their children and helps to cut costs for the care of juvenile delinquents in county and state custody.

But according to the 1996 amendment, the order is supposed to be reasonable, taking into account both the income and resources of the parent or

guardian. However, some parents are having problems paying the bills and others argue the whole initiative is counterproductive for a system that should be focused on "strengthening families."

"It's ridiculous," Alexander Goldstein, a case delinquency worker, said. "I have some parents who are being told they have to sell their homes or get a second job to pay reimbursement for cost of care. A lot of them have other children they're trying to raise. What are they supposed to do?"

Other opponents of the 1996 amendment declare that forcing parents to pay reimbursement for cost of care is punishing parents and guardians and not addressing the serious needs of juvenile delinquents and their families.

# Transfusion blunts sickle cell strokes

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

A treatment that prevents strokes in children with sickle cell anemia has been announced by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. New data from the "Stroke Prevention Trial in Sickle Cell Anemia," show that administering blood transfusions every three-to-four weeks to children with sickle cell anemia, who are at high risk for stroke, reduces their rate of stroke by 90 percent. The results were so compelling that the study was stopped on Aug. 29 - 16 months

earlier than planned.

"This is very good news for the roughly 2,500 children with sickle cell anemia who may be at risk for stroke and their families," said Dr. Claude Lenfant, director of NHLBI. "Although this is not a cure, transfusions offer these children the hope of avoiding the devastating consequences of stroke.

"Of course, blood transfusions have their own risks," he added. "But for the patients and their families, the benefits of preventing strokes and their debilitating effects far outweigh the risks associated with repeated blood transfusions.

And we continue to support research to develop other agents that will prevent strokes with fewer complications."

Sickle cell anemia is the most common genetic blood disorder in the U.S., affecting approximately one in 500 African-American and one in 1,000 Hispanic newborns each year.

The announcement comes as NHLBI is commemorating its 50th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of its Sickle Cell Disease Program.

For more information, contact the NHLBI Information Office at (301) 496-4236.

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