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Fighter agrees to use earnings to pay child supp

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DENVER -- Stevie Johnston will be released from jail to train for his Las Vegas fight with Alejandro Gonzalez after the boxer agreed to use his earnings to help pay overdue child support.

The former lightweight champion was sentenced to a two-month jail term March 25 for contempt of court. He failed to pay three women, mothers of four of his children, $136,000 in child support over 18 months.

The 29-year-old boxer wasn't scheduled for release until May 18. Johnston is to fly to Las Vegas three days before the April 20 fight, said Sharon Liko, his lawyer.

At a hearing Tuesday, Johnston agreed to pay the three women an undisclosed sum immediately and turn over part of his purse from his fight, which will be televised by HBO.

In exchange, a judge ordered Johnston to be released Wednesday.

Johnston, 33-2-1, is ranked second among WBC lightweights.He held the title from March 1997 until June 2000.

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