

## Johnston ordered to jail

**By Sue Lindsay, Rocky Mountain News  
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Denver boxer Stevie Johnston was sentenced to six months in jail Wednesday for failing to pay child support for four children with three different mothers.

Johnston won a reprieve from jail last year so he could fight Alejandro Gonzalez on April 20, 2002, in Las Vegas and turn over \$60,000 in prize money toward the \$136,000 he owed in child support at the time.

Johnston now owes more than \$168,000 in back child support and has paid only \$5,768 since a contempt hearing last August, said Joseph DiGregorio, attorney for Denver human services.

Johnston's boxing license was suspended in February and his driver's license was suspended last August because of unpaid child support, DiGregorio said. "The department is at the end of the line on enforcement remedies," he said.

Sharon Liko, Johnston's attorney, asked for another chance for him to turn over proceeds of a fight tentatively set for September, but Denver Juvenile Judge Orrelle Weeks said Johnston has had enough chances.

"I have the same promises about fights that I've heard time and time again," Weeks said. "Father knew what the orders were. Father knew what promises were made to this court."

Liko said Johnston has done everything he could to pay the support and has borrowed money to make \$600 payments to the child registry most months. But it's a fraction of what he owes.

Liko said Johnston's child support payments of \$7,404 a month were set based on a \$1 million a year income that he doesn't come close to reaching. She said she intends to ask the court to reduce the payments to reflect Johnston's current income. The three women said they didn't want Johnston to go to jail.

"I hate that it happened this way," Latasha Hall said. "This is the last thing I wanted to have happen."

The women said it's embarrassing for their children to go to school and be teased about their father being in jail. But they said they also need money to support their children.

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