

**EX-WIFE
CHARGES...**

DAVID SOUL IS A DEADBEAT DAD

STARKY & Hutch star David Soul is a deadbeat dad, says his ex-wife, and owes \$65,000 in court-ordered child support.

Soul, who played good-guy cop Hutch in the hit '70s series, moved to England in 1995 - turning his back on his ex-wife Patti and their three sons, Brendan, 18, Timothy, 17, and Andrew, 16.

"It breaks my heart," Patti confides. "Brendan dropped out of school to work, just to have a little spending money. And now the other boys want to do the same. It's been so hard on them to grow up without a father."

After the couple's bitter divorce in 1986, Patti and her young sons left Los Angeles for Idaho. They live in a modest home in rural Post Falls.

Soul, who has three other children from other marriages, made regular child support payments to Patti until 1996, when they just stopped. It was

at a time, she says, that "his boys needed it the most."

Patti, 49, says she was forced to give up her 25-year hobby of raising horses, all extra activities for the kids and even their health insurance. Right now, she claims she can't even afford to take her ex to court.

Meanwhile, the 57-year-old actor/singer, who had No. 1 hits in the '70s, is doing well in London, where he lives with longtime girlfriend Alexa Hamilton. He's acting, directing and producing stage shows and singing in nightclubs. He'll also appear on TV in the BBC hospital drama *Holby City* this spring.

"But Soul is delinquent on court-ordered child support to the tune of nearly \$65,000," declares Patti's attorney Robert Garcin.

"It's abominable when someone high-profile, with means, gets away with that. Plain and simple,



Soul's ex Patti with sons (from left) Andrew, Brendan and Timothy

David Soul is a deadbeat dad!"

And when he was with Patti, the third of his four wives, she says Soul battled alcoholism, blackened her eyes, split her lip and broke her nose, fingers and arm.

"He was an awful, awful man," says Patti's sister Suzanne Carnel. "The whole family was relieved when she was strong enough to throw him out. Patti is a devoted mother and has raised three incredible sons. David can take absolutely no credit for them."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI



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