

## **Maintenance Enforcement Program**

### **Federal Licence Denials**

A federal licence denial is one of the collection tools the Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) uses to encourage maintenance payments when debtors are in arrears.

When debtors fail to make payments in full for three payment periods, or have accumulated arrears of \$3,000 or more, MEP may apply to the federal government to deny certain federally issued licences, including passports and aviation and marine licences.

Before issuing a federal licence denial, MEP sends a notification letter to the debtor's address. This letter warns of a pending licence denial and requests that debtors contact MEP to make payment arrangements. From the date the notification is mailed, debtors are given 40 days to respond. If debtors contact MEP and make reasonable payment arrangements, federal licence denials are not completed. However, if no response is received within 40 days, MEP initiates action to deny federal licences.

If debtors hold a Canadian passport or other federal licence, the appropriate federal department suspends the passport or licence and refuses to renew it. That federal department then sends debtors notification of the action taken. If debtors are not current passport or licence holders, their names are placed on a control list to prevent future passports or licences from being issued to them. This control remains in effect until MEP requests that it be terminated.

It is an offence for people notified of a passport suspension to use that passport or fail to return it to a passport office. This offence carries a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment for six months, or both. Federal RCMP conduct investigations to recover unreturned passports.

If debtors contact MEP and make satisfactory payment arrangements, MEP applies to have federal licence denials terminated. It may take up to 14 days for MEP to initiate removal of denials.

For additional information on federal licence denials, you may wish to access the Justice Canada website at [www.canada.justice.gc.ca](http://www.canada.justice.gc.ca). This action is authorized by part three of *Family Orders and Agreement Enforcement Assistance Act*.

This document is part of a series of MEP information sheets that can be obtained in the following ways:

- MEP's website at [www.albertamep.gov.ab.ca](http://www.albertamep.gov.ab.ca)
  - MEP's fax-on-demand service on the *MEP Info Line* by calling 780-422-5555 and using the catalogue number of the information sheet you wish to request
- \* **Toll-free** service to all Government of Alberta phone numbers is available from anywhere in Alberta by calling 310-0000 and following the voice prompts

