

## **Maintenance Enforcement Program**

### **Registrations (Writs) at the Personal Property Registry**

The Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) can register maintenance orders at the Personal Property Registry (PPR) to encourage payment of support arrears. Because MEP's registrations act like a writ of enforcement filed against the debtor's name, they are commonly referred to as *writs*.

The PPR provides online registration and search services for liens, writs and security agreements affecting personal property. The term *personal property* describes all property other than land, such as recreational and other vehicles, aircraft, household and personal items, industrial and farming equipment, and securities like shares, stocks and bonds. The PPR also supports the enforcement of money judgments and other civil enforcement proceedings. All information that is stored in the PPR Information System is public. Forms, services and information about registrations and searches are available at registry agent offices throughout Alberta and at [www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca](http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca).

MEP is authorized by the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* to register a child or spousal support order with the PPR at any time. Registration is initiated by MEP if an account is in arrears. Once MEP registers a writ, it normally stays in place for the life of the file as security for future payments, even if support arrears are paid.

MEP's registration at the PPR may prevent debtors from transferring clear title to personal property they wish to sell. MEP may also specifically register a charge against serial-numbered goods that debtors may own, such as vehicles. This may make it difficult for debtors to sell or finance vehicles without first making satisfactory payment arrangements with MEP.

Registering maintenance orders at the PPR also allows MEP to instruct civil enforcement agencies to seize personal property located in Alberta. If MEP proceeds with seizure and sale, net sale funds (after administrative costs are paid) are distributed among creditors by enforcement agencies. Support payment creditors take priority over most, but not all other creditors. Agencies determine the appropriate distribution according to the *Civil Enforcement Act*.

Registration at the PPR also enables MEP to receive a share of funds received by civil enforcement agencies or the Court of Queen's Bench as a result of seizures or bank and wage garnishees issued against debtors by other creditors. Writs do not intercept other money paid into court, such as court costs, bail or money held in trust at Queen's Bench, including money from the sale of real property or personal injury settlements.

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