

## **When Debtors or Creditors Reside Outside Alberta**

Each province in Canada has a separate maintenance enforcement program with its own legislation and tools to collect court-ordered maintenance or maintenance payable by enforceable agreements. If either party named in a court order lives in Alberta and the other lives outside the province, the file may be reciprocally registered for enforcement.

### ***Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act***

Often referred to as the ISO Act, this legislation authorizes Alberta's Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) to monitor and enforce court orders when a person responsible for paying support (debtor) or a person receiving these payments (creditor) resides outside Alberta. MEP has reciprocal agreements with numerous other jurisdictions, including all Canadian provinces and territories.

### **Reciprocal Registration**

Reciprocal registration occurs when court orders or enforceable agreements from one jurisdiction are filed in another jurisdiction that recognizes the originating court's authority to make child or spousal support orders. Court orders from outside Alberta's jurisdiction are reciprocally registered in Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench before they can be enforced and collection action can begin. If orders were granted outside Canada, there is a 30-day waiting period during which debtors may apply to court to object to Alberta enforcing them.

### **When Debtors Live Outside Alberta**

Enforcement action occurs in the jurisdiction where the debtors reside. When debtors live outside Alberta, MEP forwards orders/agreements and file information for registration with the enforcement program in the debtors' jurisdiction.

The role of Alberta MEP when debtors reside outside Alberta is to provide accounting and communication services between the reciprocating jurisdiction and creditors. Any funds collected by other programs are routed through Alberta MEP and forwarded to creditors to ensure that payments received from the debtors are secure.

### **When Creditors Live Outside Alberta**

When creditors live outside Alberta, Alberta may send court orders/agreements for reciprocal registration in the creditor's jurisdiction or Alberta MEP may be asked by the creditor's jurisdiction to register the file in Alberta for enforcement if the debtor lives here.

The role of Alberta MEP when creditors live outside Alberta is to monitor and enforce court orders and agreements for child and spousal support and receive payments directly from debtors. Alberta MEP also provides accounting and communication services between reciprocating jurisdictions and debtors. Any funds collected are routed through Alberta MEP to ensure payments are secure prior to forwarding them to reciprocating jurisdictions.

### **Both Parties Live in Alberta – Out-of-Province Court Order**

If a court order was granted in another jurisdiction and both parties reside in Alberta, MEP may be able to file the order with the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench. Once the order has been filed here, MEP can begin to monitor and enforce payment on the order.

## Both Parties Live Outside of Alberta – Alberta Court Order

If both the debtor and creditor have moved out of Alberta, MEP will close the file and the parties will need to register with the enforcement program in the area where they live.

## Contacting MEP From Other Parts Of Canada

Parties who are registered with another Canadian provincial or territorial maintenance enforcement program should always communicate with their own program. However, creditors in other provinces who have time-sensitive matters such as advising MEP of a debtor's whereabouts or needing information by a specific deadline can call MEP toll-free at 1-844-637-2255. This toll-free phone number is available for creditors who are outside Alberta, and within Canada. Creditors may speak to MEP's staff or request a callback only during [MEP's regular business hours](#).

## Reciprocating Jurisdictions

**Canada** – Alberta has reciprocal enforcement agreements with all other Canadian provinces and territories

**Other Jurisdictions** – Alberta has reciprocal enforcement agreements with the following jurisdictions:

American Samoa  
Australia  
Austria  
Barbados  
Czech Republic  
Fiji Islands  
Germany  
Great Britain  
Guam

Isle of Man  
Jersey  
New Zealand  
Northern Ireland  
Northern Mariana Island  
Norway  
Papua New Guinea  
Poland  
Puerto Rico

Scotland  
Singapore  
Slovak Republic  
South Africa  
Switzerland  
United States  
Virgin Islands  
Wales

- MEP has other Information Sheets, on a variety of helpful topics. To see them, visit MEP's website at [www.albertamep.gov.ab.ca](http://www.albertamep.gov.ab.ca).
- To contact MEP, phone 780-422-5555 or toll-free in Alberta at 310-0000.
- To view information about your MEP file, log in to *MEP Accounts Online* on MEP's website and select "Account login".