

Maintenance Enforcement Support Agreements

Instead of using the courts to determine maintenance, you also have the option of making your own agreement by completing a Maintenance Enforcement Support Agreement (MESA) form.

Who can use a Maintenance Enforcement Support Agreement?

Agreements can be made for child, spousal or adult interdependent partner support. Do **NOT** use the form when you already have a court order for the same type of support. Also, do not use the form if you have already signed an agreement for the same type of support under the *Parentage and Maintenance Act*, *Income Support Recovery Act* or *Income and Employment Supports Act*.

How do I register a Maintenance Enforcement Support Agreement with MEP?

1. If you do not already have an Agreement, develop one with the other parent. Use the Maintenance Enforcement Support Agreement Form provided at MEP's website at alberta.ca/mep (click on the Information Sheet section and then on the "Getting started with the Maintenance Enforcement Program" section). For guidance on how to complete the Form, refer to the Form's accompanying Instruction Package. You may also use MEP's automated telephone system, the *MEP Info Line*, to request these documents to be sent to you (dial 780-422-5555 or toll free dial 310-0000).
2. To register an Agreement with MEP, send an original, signed copy of the Agreement (and the supporting Affidavits) along with a completed Registration Package to MEP. Send a completed Creditor Registration Package if you are the recipient, or the Debtor Registration Package if you are the Payor. These Packages are both available on MEP's website.

When MEP registers your file, the original copy of the agreement is filed with the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in Edmonton.

Can a Maintenance Enforcement Support Agreement be recalculated?

The amount of child support paid under a Maintenance Enforcement Support Agreement can be recalculated annually by the Child Support Recalculation Program (RP) in the same way as a court order. This can help keep the amount of child support paid consistent with changes in a recipient's or payor's income. For more information about RP and how to register, visit the RP website at alberta.ca/child-support-recalculation.aspx or contact them at 780-401-1111 or toll free at 310-0000.

Need Assistance in Completing a Maintenance Enforcement Agreement?

While it is not necessary to have a lawyer complete the agreement on your behalf, you may wish to seek legal advice. The Referrals to Resources Information Sheet on MEP's website provides information on how to access legal, counselling, mediation and education services.

To determine the amount of maintenance that should be paid, a step-by-step guide to the Federal Child Support Guidelines can be accessed online, or downloaded as a PDF, at the Government of Canada Department of Justice website, at <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/fl-lf/child-enfant/guide/index.html>.

Do you have questions about the law and child or spousal/partner support?

Alberta's Court and Justice Services (CJS) provides family law information, forms, court information and more through an easy-to-use online interactive information portal. Visit alberta.ca/court-and-justice-services.aspx for more information.

- The MEP has other Information Sheets, on a variety of helpful topics. To see them, visit the MEP's website at alberta.ca/mep
- To contact the MEP, phone 780-422-5555 or toll-free in Alberta at 310-0000.
- To view information about your MEP file, go to the MEP's website at alberta.ca/mep and select "MEP Accounts Online"