

Family Maintenance Enforcement Program
Fact Sheet for New Immigrants



Do You Need Help With Child Support?

British Columbia Family Law makes the best interests of the children the most important concern when parents divorce or separate. This means parents must continue to provide financial support for their children even though they do not live together.

Sometimes parents do not meet their responsibilities under the child support order. This can create hardship for children and families. When there are problems getting child support families can get help from the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program. This is a free government program that helps families collect spousal and child support, track support payments and enforce support orders. The Family Maintenance Enforcement Program has legal powers to collect overdue support payments. For example they can have an employer take payments off a parent's wages.

To sign up for this free program the parent must first have a legal support order or an agreement for support that has been filed in a British Columbia court. For help getting child support orders or filing agreements families should get professional legal advice and assistance. Family Justice Centres can provide information and assistance. The Family Maintenance Enforcement Program does not provide legal assistance or provide child support orders.

Sometimes a parent lives outside British Columbia. The government has arrangements with all other Canadian provinces and several foreign countries to make sure child support obligations are followed. A separate fact sheet: **Collecting Child Support When A Parent Lives Outside of British Columbia** lists provinces and countries covered by these arrangements.

You can enroll with the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program or get more information by visiting www.fmep.gov.bc.ca or by telephoning 604 678-5670 in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, 250 220-4040 in Victoria or in the North and Interior at 250 434-6020.