

FEDERAL LICENCE/PASSPORT DENIAL FACT SHEET

Family Maintenance Enforcement Program

What is “licence/passport denial”?

As soon as a maintenance order or agreement is filed with the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP), we are responsible under the *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act* for monitoring and enforcing that order.

That means we have the authority to take certain actions to make sure the person who is supposed to pay maintenance (called the payor) makes his or her maintenance payments.

One of those actions is to notify the federal government when a payor has fallen \$3,000 or more behind in maintenance payments. The federal government will then either refuse to issue the payor a new passport and/or federal aviation or marine licence, or suspend the payor’s current passport or licence.

Important!

FMEP is responsible for requesting the licence/passport denial.

Federal government staff cannot decide to remove the denial – only FMEP can.

If your passport or licence has been denied, please contact FMEP – not the federal government – to discuss arrangements for lifting the restriction.

Does this apply to all payors with over \$3,000 in arrears?

No. Denying a payor’s licence or passport is a serious step, and we will take that step only after we have tried – unsuccessfully – to collect the maintenance in other ways.

Only if administrative enforcement does not work, and the payor still does not pay the arrears

or contact us to work out a reasonable payment plan – and the payor owes more than \$3,000 in maintenance – will we consider notifying the federal government.

Will the payor be notified before the licence/passport denial goes in place?

Yes. We will send the payor a notice before we contact the federal government. The payor will have the opportunity either to pay the arrears or

to make arrangements for paying them over time in addition to making regular maintenance payments.

How long will the licence/passport denial stay in place?

The denial will stay in place:

- as long as the payor's maintenance order or agreement is enrolled with FMEP;
- until the payor arranges to pay the arrears; or
- we decide to withdraw the denial based on a review of the payor's case.

Can the payor request a review of the denial?

Yes. A payor may ask us to review the case if the payor:

- believes he or she was less than \$3,000 in arrears at the time we sent the notice;
- can prove the denial would significantly reduce his or her ability to pay maintenance; or
- has started to receive income assistance.

Where can I get more information about the licence/passport denial?

For general information about the licence/passport denial and a variety of other topics go to our website fmep.gov.bc.ca or call InfoLine:

Metro Vancouver: 604 775-0796
Greater Victoria: 250 356-5995
Elsewhere in BC: 1-800-668-3637

For specific information about your case, sign into your web account on our website, or call an Enquiry Representative at one of our offices:

Lower Mainland Client Office
604 678-5670 or 1-800-663-9666

Victoria Client Office
250 220-4040 or 1-800-663-3455

Northern & Interior Client Office
250 434-6020 or 1-800-663-3933

For information about family justice issues and services, visit the BC Government's Family Justice website.

Tips for Payors

- We asked that you send your payments to FMEP using online or telephone banking through your financial institution. See your Notice of Filing or go to our website for more information on this payment method.

- If you are unable to send your payments electronically, you can mail cheques made payable to the recipient to:

FMEP Payment Services
Box 9233,
Victoria BC V8W 9J1

- Please be sure to send your payments with enough time for them to be received at FMEP by the due date.
- Do not pay the recipient directly. You are required by law to send all maintenance payments to FMEP.
- We cannot change your maintenance order or agreement. If you are having trouble making your scheduled maintenance payments, you may need to obtain a new court order or agreement. In the meantime, we are required to make sure you pay the maintenance you owe now.
- If you have fallen behind in your payments, please contact us. We will work with you to develop a plan for paying the arrears in addition to making your ongoing maintenance payments.