

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENCE RESTRICTION FACT SHEET

Family Maintenance Enforcement Program

What is a “motor vehicle licence restriction”?

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 in full and on time.

For any payor who is more than \$3,000 behind in maintenance payments, one of those actions may be to instruct the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) to refuse to issue or renew the annual licence for a motor vehicle or trailer the payor owns.

How does the vehicle licence restriction affect my ability to obtain vehicle insurance?

Without a vehicle licence, you cannot purchase vehicle insurance.

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

No. Restricting a payor’s ability to license a vehicle or to renew a motor vehicle licence is a serious step. We take that step only after we have tried – unsuccessfully – to collect the maintenance payments in other ways. 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 – we will consider restricting the payor’s ability to license or renew the licence on a motor vehicle.

Will the payor be notified before the licence restriction goes in place?

Yes. We will attempt to send each payor two notices before we instruct ICBC to restrict his or her ability to license or renew the licence on a motor vehicle the payor owns. The payor will

have the opportunity either to pay the arrears or to make arrangements for paying them over time. These arrangements will be in addition to making ongoing maintenance payments.

How long will the licence restriction stay in place?

The restriction will stay in place as long as the payor’s maintenance order or agreement is filed with FMEP, or until the payor arranges to pay the arrears (we may also require a deposit as security for future payments), or we decide to withdraw the restriction based on a review of the payor’s case.

Important!

FMEP, not ICBC, is responsible for restricting the payor’s ability to license or renew the licence on a motor vehicle. ICBC licensing staff cannot decide to remove the restriction; only FMEP can. If a motor vehicle licence restriction is in place, contact FMEP – not ICBC – to discuss arrangements for having the restriction removed.

Can the payor request a review of the licence restriction?

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, or

Where can I get more information about the motor vehicle licence restriction?

For general information about the motor vehicle licence restriction 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.

- the licence restriction would significantly reduce his or her ability to pay maintenance.

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.