

# 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 \$3,000.00 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 \$3,000.00 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 \$3,000.00 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 the 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!

The 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 the FMEP can. If a motor vehicle licence restriction is in place, contact the FMEP – not ICBC – to discuss arrangements for having the restriction removed.

## Can the payor request a review of the licence restriction?

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

- he or she was less than \$3,000.00 in arrears at the time we sent the notice, or
- that the licence restriction would significantly reduce his or her ability to pay maintenance.

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

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For pre-recorded, general information about the motor vehicle licence restriction and a variety of other subjects, please call the FMEP InfoLine:

Greater Vancouver: 604-775-0796

Greater Victoria: 250-356-5995

Elsewhere in BC: 1-800-668-3637

For more specific information about the motor vehicle licence restriction, please call an Enquiry Representative at one of our FMEP Regional Offices:

Greater Vancouver: 604-678-5670  
or toll-free 1-800-663-9666

Greater Victoria: 250-220-4040  
or toll-free 1-800-663-3455

Northern and Interior BC: 250-434-6020  
or toll-free 1-800-663-3933

For information about your case, visit our website, [www.fmep.gov.bc.ca](http://www.fmep.gov.bc.ca)

For information about family justice issues and services, visit [www.ag.gov.bc.ca/family-justice](http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/family-justice)

## Tips for Maintenance Payors

- Instead of mailing your payments, you can send payments to us through On-line Banking, Telephone Banking or ABM Banking. Please contact your regional office for details on how to set up this payment option.
- If you choose to mail your payments, be sure to allow enough time for them to arrive by the due date. (You may want to consider post-dated cheques.)
- Send your cheque or money order - made out to the recipient - to us at our Victoria office:  
FMEP Payment Services  
Box 5599,  
Victoria BC V8R 6T7
- Always include your FMEP case number on your payment.
- Do not pay the recipient directly. You are required by law to send all maintenance payments to the FMEP.
- We cannot change your court 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, however, 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.