

Maintenance Enforcement Program Facts

A series of program fact sheets to answer your most commonly asked questions

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EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE (EIA) AND ASSIGNED MAINTENANCE

A Family Resource

The Manitoba government's Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) protects the interests of children and spouses by enforcing maintenance orders and agreements. MEP collects, records and forwards support payments.

The **CREDITOR/PAYEE** is the person receiving the support payment.

The **DEBTOR/PAYOR** is the person paying the support.

If payments are not made, the program can take a number of steps to collect on support owed. For more details on this program, please visit our website or contact the MEP Info line 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

MEP Info line
In Winnipeg 204-945-7133
Toll-free 1-866-479-2717
E-mail: ManitobaMEPinquiries@gov.mb.ca
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/family/mep/index.html

What happens if the creditor is receiving assistance through Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)?

Income assistance is financial help provided by the Manitoba government through EIA. If a creditor is receiving these benefits, then the support payments may be assigned or sent to EIA even if the creditor has not registered with the MEP. The debtor must still make the support payments. Those payments are collected and recorded by the Program and sent to EIA, until the creditor no longer receives assistance and EIA ends the assignment. If the payments are not paid, action will be taken against the debtor.

Can the support payments be cancelled?

Not unless ordered by the court. While the creditor is on income assistance, the program must collect the support payments as set out in the order or agreement and send them to EIA. The creditor cannot arrange with the debtor to receive payments directly or reduce or forgive the support to be paid. The creditor cannot withdraw from the program while the support is assigned or while in receipt of income assistance benefits.

How will payments be handled while the support is assigned?

When support is assigned to EIA, the MEP forwards the payments received to EIA.

If a creditor has outstanding support, payments received will go to EIA until paid in full. Once EIA has been paid in full, then a creditor will receive any additional funds collected by the MEP for the outstanding support. Any funds sent to a creditor receiving income assistance are reported to EIA by the program.

What if the creditor stops receiving income assistance?

Contact the Employment and Income Assistance office as soon as possible in case you are entitled to support payments. EIA staff will confirm that future maintenance payments can go to you and provide the necessary documents to the Program.

What about the extraordinary expenses set out in my support order or agreement?

Some orders or agreements call for payments for extraordinary expenses such as child care or school tuition. If the expense is not part of the amount due or assigned by EIA, payment for the expense will be sent to the creditor. The creditor must report the receipt of these payments with EIA.

Manitoba 

Fact sheets available from MEP:

- 1** How to Register with the Maintenance Enforcement Program
- 2** Making Payments
- 3** Responsibilities of the Payee/Creditor
- 4** Responsibilities of the Payor/Debtor
- 5** Responsibilities of the Maintenance Enforcement Program
- 6** When the Payor/Debtor or the Payee/Creditor Live Outside of Manitoba
- 7** Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) and Assigned Maintenance
- 8** Confidentiality and Privacy Protection
- 9** If you have a Compliment or Complaint

MEP Offices:

Winnipeg Central Payment Processing
100 - 352 Donald Street, Winnipeg MB R3B 2H8
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday

Thompson
Room 12 - 59 Elizabeth Dr., Thompson MB R8N 1X4

Brandon
Room 108 -1104 Princess Ave., Brandon MB R7A 0P9