

Maintenance Enforcement Program

Statement of Finances

If debtors have defaulted on maintenance payments required by court orders or agreements registered with the Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP), they may be asked to complete a *Statement of Finances* (catalogue #99011). The purpose of the Statement of Finances is to determine the debtor's financial situation so that satisfactory payment arrangements on the arrears can be made. The Statement of Finances Form is available through the *MEP Info Line* or MEP's website (see box below).

The Statement of Finances provides a sworn or affirmed summary of debtor income, expenses, assets and employment. Statements are mandatory:

- prior to negotiating payment of any arrears owing
- if debtors request existing payment arrangements to be reduced
- when there are arrears and collection action is in place, (e.g., support deduction notices, motor vehicle restrictions and licence suspensions)
- for financial examination or default hearings

Debtors are required under the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* to complete and return Statements of Finances if they are requested to do so. These forms must be fully completed, with debtors marking *n/a* or *not-applicable* for any items that do not apply. Statements of Finances must be returned to MEP within **15 days** of being mailed. Debtors who do not return Statements of Finances when requested are required to pay a \$200 penalty **or** can be prosecuted. Debtors who are prosecuted are subject to fines of up to \$2,000, three months imprisonment, or both.

If debtors do not return the Statement of Finances as required and default hearings are scheduled, MEP can advise the court of the debtors' failure to comply. This may not reflect well on debtors appearing in court.

Debtors must take their completed Statement of Finances to a Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public to be sworn or affirmed. It is an offence under the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* for debtors to knowingly give false information in sworn or affirmed Statements of Finances.

For more information on motor vehicle restrictions, support deduction notices, financial examinations or default hearings, see *Motor Vehicle Restrictions and Driver's Licence Suspensions*, *Non-Wage Support Deduction Notices*, and *Wage Support Deduction Notices* (all contained in MEP information sheet catalogue #99024) and *Financial Examination Hearings and Default Hearings* (catalogue #99028).

This document is part of a series of MEP information sheets that can be obtained in the following ways:

- MEP's website at www.albertamep.gov.ab.ca
 - MEP's fax-on-demand service on the *MEP Info Line* by calling 780-422-5555 and using the catalogue number of the information sheet you wish to request
- * **Toll-free** service to all Government of Alberta phone numbers is available from anywhere in Alberta by calling 310-0000 and following the voice prompts