

# Special/Extraordinary Expenses (Effective April 1, 2014)

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## Does the Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) enforce special expenses for children and expenses for extracurricular activities?

It depends. The court can order the person paying the support (the payor) to pay special expenses for children including

- child care
- health care
- fees for extracurricular activities like hockey
- medical and dental premiums
- extraordinary expenses for educational purposes
- post-secondary expenses

These are called Section 7 expenses. They are named for Section 7 of the Federal Child Support Guidelines and the Nova Scotia Child Maintenance Guidelines.

We can enforce certain Section 7 provisions, but not all.

## What maintenance order provisions can the MEP enforce?

We can enforce if the payor has to pay a set amount of an extra expense. For example, a payor can be ordered to pay \$100 per month for hockey expenses.

We can continue to enforce provisions for receipt-based expenses that have been enforced in the past. This applies only to cases that existed before April 1, 2014.

## What provisions can't be enforced?

We can't enforce provisions with wording like "the parties are equally responsible for" or "the parties share equally." We can only enforce when one party must pay the other.

We can't enforce if the amount to be paid is not stated. As of April 1, 2014, we will only enforce orders that state the exact dollar amount to be enforced. Receipts may not be needed in these cases.

We may not enforce if the payor and recipient can't agree if the expense needs to be paid.

## What should a Section 7 provision include for the MEP to enforce it?

*The provision should state*

- that one party (the payor) pay the other party (the recipient)
- the expenses for which the payor must pay (e.g., child care, lessons)
- the amount that must be paid
- when the payment is due
  - for ongoing payments: list due date of first payment and when subsequent payments are due (e.g., first of each week or month)
  - for one-time payment: list due date of the lump sum
- who should receive the payment
- the end date for either the payment of the expense or the conditions for the payment of the expense

**Note:** We send important, time-sensitive notices by mail requiring a signature on delivery. Please be sure to keep all contact information up to date.