

AMENDMENTS TO THE ALBERTA CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

On May 1st, 2006, amendments to the *Federal Child Support Guidelines* and the *Alberta Child Support Guidelines* will come into force.

Will child support amounts be affected by the amendments?

The amounts of child support set out in the tables are calculated based on a mathematical formula. The formula used to create these tables has not changed, however, the tables have been updated to reflect 2004 tax rules. Previously, the tables were based on 1996 tax rules. The updated child support tables will show increases or decreases in the child support amounts depending on whether changes to the tax rules provide parents at specific income levels with a greater or lesser ability to pay. The changes to the child support amounts to be paid are consistent with the Guidelines principle that the amounts should reflect the payor's ability to pay.

The other amendments to the guidelines affect the definition of "extraordinary" for some special expenses, the calculation of guideline incomes for some payor parents who do not reside in Canada, and the comparison of household incomes in an undue hardship situation.

Will my child support amount automatically change?

No, the child support amounts in any existing order will not be automatically changed. However, if the child support amount would be different if calculated using the amended *Guidelines*, you may wish to ask the Court to vary your order.

How can I find out more information?

The full text of the *Guidelines Amending the Federal Child Support Guidelines* can be found at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/sup/>.

The text of the *Alberta Child Support Guidelines Amendment Regulation* can be found at http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/Orders_in_Council/2006/406/2006_177.html.

The simplified tables for the Province of Alberta will be available on the federal government website at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/sup/>.

For information on how these amendments affect your child support order, how to make a claim for child support or how to vary a child support order, contact the **Family Law Information Centre**:

In Edmonton: 1A Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton, Alberta (780) 415-0404

In Calgary: #604 J.J. Bowlen Building, 620 – 7 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta (403) 297-6600

Outside Edmonton and Calgary: Dial 310-0000 first for toll free access in Alberta

Website: <http://www.albertacourts.ab.ca/go/CourtServices/FamilyJusticeServices/FamilyLawInformationCentres/tabid/121/Default.aspx>.