

Financial Documents for Family Court

Judges must make decisions based only on the evidence (what you say in the witness box, documents, photographs, etc.) presented during a trial or hearing, so be sure to **bring ALL the documents that you want the judge to see, as well as the Financial Statement (Form 4) already filed, with you to court on the day of your hearing or trial.**

As a general rule, when you are providing any documents not already filed to Court bring the **original documents plus three copies (FOUR sets in total)**. When you talk about the document during the trial or hearing you'll hand two copies to the court clerk (one to be marked as an Exhibit and one for the judge), keep one copy for yourself, and give one to the other party. Bring one additional copy if there is a lawyer for a child (under Rule 162 of the Provincial Court Family Rules).

If your matter includes issues of child support or spousal support:

You will need to fill out a financial statement using **Form 4** and file that along with your application or reply. You can obtain it from a Court Registry or online at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/courthouse-services/court-files-records/court-forms/family/pfa713.pdf?forcedownload=true>

Form 4 gives the Court details about your income and financial circumstances. Please note that the Form asks you to provide financial information for **each of the three most recent taxation years**. Be sure to include full copies of all of the attachments required by the Form.

Legal Aid BC has created a useful, step-by-step guide to filling out the form. Find it at:

<https://family.legalaid.bc.ca/bc-legal-system/legal-forms-documents/filling-out-court-forms/complete-provincial-court-financial#0>

If you are required to attend a Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP) hearing because you are behind on child or spousal support payments:

Legal Aid BC offers a self-help guide to dealing with a committal hearing (where FMEP is asking a judge to jail you or make other court orders because you have not paid support). Find it online at:

<https://family.legalaid.bc.ca/finances-support/child-spousal-support/attend-committal-hearing-payors-fmep#0>

You will need to provide a **Statement of Finances (Form 73)** to the Court if you are enrolled in the FMEP. You can get this from the Court Registry or online at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/courthouse-services/court-files-records/court-forms/family/pfa073.pdf?forcedownload=true>

Note: If you are the person required to pay support and FMEP has asked for a Committal Hearing you may be able to get a legal aid lawyer to represent you in the hearing. To learn

how to apply for legal aid see: http://www.lss.bc.ca/legal_aid/howToApply.php

Other Useful Links:

Parenting after Separation Finances - A Handbook for Parents	http://pas-finances.familieschange.ca/sites/default/files/PAS-Finances-Handbook.pdf
Child Support Estimator	http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/fl-df/child-enfant/look-rech.asp
Legal Aid BC Self Help Guides - Family Law	https://family.legalaid.bc.ca/guides
Legal Aid BC Family Law advice from Family Duty Counsel or Family LawLINE	http://www.lss.bc.ca/legal_aid/ under "Advice from" click on "get more information"