

FAMILY JUSTICE REFORM ACT 2023

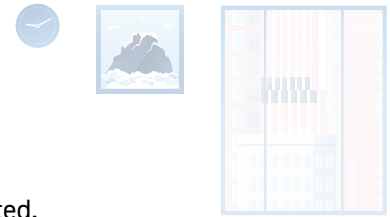
Phase 1 of the Maintenance Enforcement Process (MEP)

A new MEP will be implemented in phases starting from 16 January 2025. In Phase 1, eligible repeat applications to enforce payments owed under a maintenance order will be referred to Maintenance Enforcement Officers (MEOs) in the Ministry of Law's Maintenance Enforcement Division.

What is the new MEP?

The new MEP will:

- deter non-payment of maintenance;
- make enforcement easier when there is non-payment of maintenance;
- facilitate sustainable maintenance outcomes; and
- increase access to justice for applicants, especially those who are self-represented.



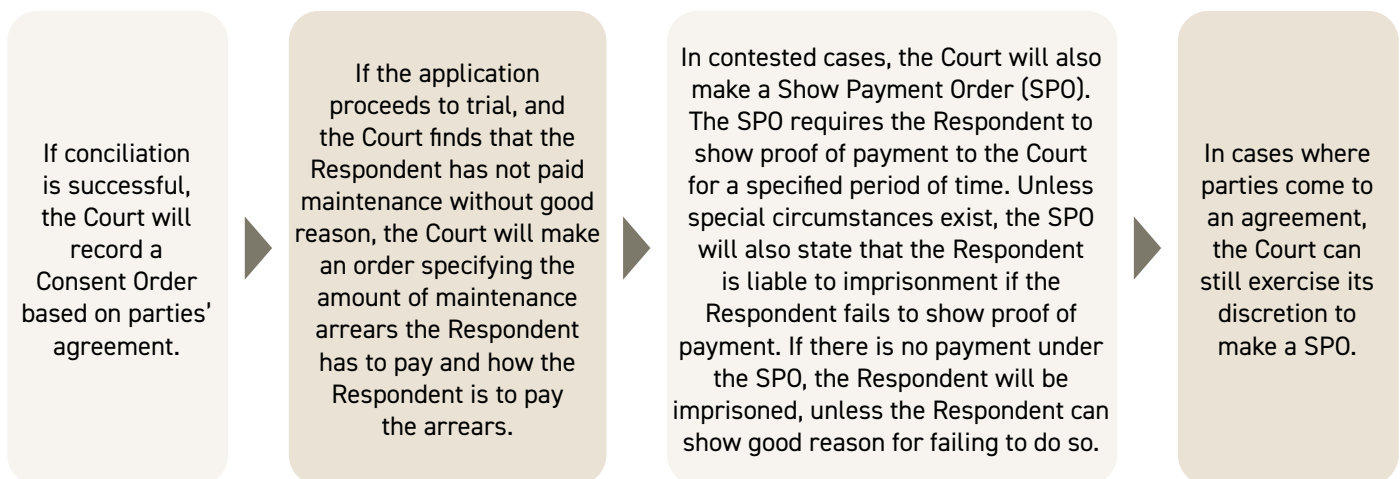
What do the MEOs do?

Under the MEP, the MEOs can:

- **conduct conciliation sessions** to facilitate amicable and sustainable settlements between parties;
- **obtain information** from parties involved and, if necessary, banks and other third parties such as public agencies (e.g. IRAS, CPF, HDB, SLA);
- **submit a report to the Court** so that the Court can make more targeted and effective enforcement orders; and
- refer suitable parties to **financial assistance**.



What will the Court do under the MEP?



How will the phases work?

- Phase 1 will take effect on 16 January 2025, and will apply to eligible repeat maintenance enforcement applications. An eligible repeat maintenance enforcement application is an application to enforce a maintenance order (made under the Women's Charter 1961, the Guardianship of Infants Act 1934, the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966, and the Maintenance of Parents Act 1995) in respect of which:
 - (a) there is at least one concluded maintenance enforcement application (i.e. the application and any appeal have been disposed of, and/or the time for appeal has lapsed); and
 - (b) there is no pending maintenance enforcement application.
- The MEP will be expanded to more categories of maintenance enforcement applications in later phases.

How to apply for Phase 1 of the MEP?

No separate application is required for Phase 1 of the MEP to apply. It will automatically apply to all eligible repeat maintenance enforcement applications (unless the Court directs otherwise).

If this is your first maintenance enforcement application, the MEP will not apply to you during Phase 1. Instead, FJC's existing maintenance enforcement process will apply.



For more information, visit <https://go.gov.sg/meo>