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## **FEDERAL CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES**

The Federal Child Support Guidelines, and the provincial equivalents are guidelines established for calculating the support of the children in a separation. The Guidelines are mandatory. The purposes of the Guidelines are to establish a uniform resolution of child support in a separation based upon the payor's income and cost of raising a child in a given province. The Guidelines are adjusted to take into account changes in the cost of living in a given province, and since the Guidelines were implemented in 1997, have been changed three times, most recently being in 2011. The payment of support set by the Guidelines must be followed, unless three very narrow exceptions apply. The exceptions are undue hardship, shared custody and split custody. To qualify under these exceptions can involve a complicated criteria that you should discuss with a Family Law lawyer to see if you qualify for these exceptions.