

DIVORCEmate News & Views

For Users of DIVORCEmate Software

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Interjurisdictional Support Order Forms Available Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia Financial Forms Ready

For over 16 years, our DIVORCEmate News & Views has been an important source of information for our 6,000+ software users - productivity hints, seminar schedules, update and new product announcements, Family Law and technology information, humour and more. Please ensure that it is circulated to all family law professional staff including support staff, law clerks, justices, judges, mediators, professors, accountants and lawyers.

DIVORCEmate Adds Interjurisdictional Support Orders (ISO) Forms to Forms+, All Provinces



The *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act, 2002 (ISO Act)* provides the process for obtaining, varying and registering support orders for enforcement if one parent lives in one province and the other parent lives in a reciprocating jurisdiction (most other provinces and states). Reciprocating jurisdictions are listed in the *ISO Act*.

The *ISO Act* is a uniform statute that all Canadian jurisdictions have agreed to implement.

The *ISO Act* offers the option of a written application with evidence that can then be forwarded to the respondent's jurisdiction to be processed. The court in the respondent's jurisdiction will then request evidence, in written format from the respondent. If additional evidence is required from either parent, the court has the flexibility to obtain it in the most expeditious and fairest way possible. One possibility is teleconferencing. This new procedure eliminates the need for court hearings in both jurisdictions.

The uniform legislation prescribes the following set of forms that will be common across Canada:

- Form A Support Application or Support Variation Application
- Form B Identification Information (required)
- Form C Evidence of Parentage
- Form D Statements to Support a Declaration of Biological Parentage (disputed)
- Form E Child Support Claim
- Form F Request for a Support Order (if no financial information)
- Form G Request for a Child Support Order (different from Child Support Guidelines)
- Form H Special Expense Claim

- Form I Request to Pay Child Support (different from Child Support Guidelines)
- Form J Support for Claimant / Applicant
- Form K Financial Statement (all section totals are calculated automatically)**
- Form L Child Status and Financial Statement
- Form M Evidence to Support Variation of a Support Order
- Form N Respondent's Answer to Application
- Form O Request for Enforcement

In Ontario, please visit the government website at:

<http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/Formsrepository.nsf/forminterjurisdictional>

The ISO Forms are part of our Forms+ offering and run in MS Word and/or Corel WordPerfect using our proven "Forms+" interface. Each ISO form is actually a word-processing document; the new ISO forms are immediately familiar to all new and current Forms+ users.

The introductory cost of these new ISO Forms is \$99 + taxes, each additional user license, add 20%. Please use the enclosed order form or visit our website.

New or renewal SUPREME All-in subscribers will receive these Forms+ ISO forms FREE.



Nova Scotia or Saskatchewan Financial Forms in MS Word and WordPerfect

DIVORCEmate Software is pleased to announce our first software offering for **Nova Scotia** and **Saskatchewan**. We have created a Forms+ version of the Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia Financial forms for MS Word and WordPerfect, *including mathematical totalling!* All forms are plain word-processing documents that run inside your word-processor! Pleasant-to-use and easy-to-learn, this software is a must for a busy, professional family law practice.

Nova Scotia Financial Forms	
Form 70.09A	Financial Statement
Form 70.09B	Property Statement
ISO forms A - O	15 ISO forms

Saskatchewan Financial Forms	
Form 609A	Financial Statement
Form 609B	Property Statement
Form 640D	Child Support Calculation
ISO forms A - O	15 ISO forms

Forms+ for Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan features:

- ☑ Word-processor based: Uses only your existing MS Word or WordPerfect.
- ☑ Word-processing features and benefits are available: virtually nothing new to learn; use paragraph numbering or outlining; change fonts ("Styles" used in MS Word), bold, *italics*; ~~strikeout~~; double line spacing; cut, copy, paste; unlimited undo; unlimited word-wrapping in most input columns and areas.
- ☑ Unlimited expansion and flexibility: each input area expands as required; one continuous form, in the proper order. No need to add extra pages at the end of the document, since most input areas are infinitely expandable!
- ☑ One-click mathematical totalling: All mathematics in financial statements, net family property statements, statements of money owed, etc will total automatically by clicking a "calculate" icon.
- ☑ Professional-looking forms: better designed than original court forms, with more input space, easier-to-read fonts and improved layout.
- ☑ Shorter forms: no unnecessary or large blank input areas; forms are shorter with fewer pages and therefore use less paper.

These new Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia Forms+ financial forms *including the new ISO forms* sell for only \$99, each province.

Bonus: Purchase our Tools+ 2003 software bundle (GUIDEline Calculator, SOLmate, SUPPORTmate) at a special price of \$499, and we will include the financial forms and ISO forms, and the Tools+ 2004 Update.

FYI: DIVORCEmate is the recognized leader in Canadian family law software. Find out why and get FREE "auto calculating" financial and ISO forms as a bonus!

Only Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan lawyers are eligible for this unique offer:

Within the next 30 days, you will automatically receive your province's financial forms, ISO forms and Tools+ 2003 software in the mail.

Install the software and try it for 60 days, only pay for the software you want, no questions asked. If you can't wait, call us at 1 800 653-0925 and start enjoying the benefits of DIVORCEmate today.

Precedents+ 2003 Separation Agreement Precedents+ Launch Successful



"Just finished my first agreement – even took time to read the user's guide. Hot damn. The icons are amazing..."

- London family lawyer

The Precedents+ 2003 software utilizes a checklist format to select clauses and create a customized and comprehensive "draft" separation agreement. The updated clauses are based on information originally contained in the Law Society's CLE book Separation Agreement Annotated (Epstein, Grant, Sadvari).

The Precedents+ 2003 software enables family law professionals to create **better and more comprehensive separation agreement drafts in less time**. The draft agreement is then reviewed, completed and customized using the lawyer's experience and skills.

The Precedents+ 2003 software is available for a limited time at promotional pricing, please see the enclosed order form.

B.C. Precedents+ Coming in 2004

We are pleased to announce that we have contracted with two experienced members of the B.C. family law bar who have agreed to help us prepare our Precedents+ 2003 software for use in B.C.

Trudi Brown and **Eugene Raponi** will be working with DIVORCEmate in order to modify the Precedents+ software content (clauses and commentary) in order to meet the needs of B.C. family law practitioners and their clientele. We are very pleased to have Trudi and Eugene help us out. Watch for B.C. Precedents+ 2004 coming this summer!

IMPORTANT: Changes to DIVORCEmate's Software Support Plans

Commencing February 2004, all DIVORCEmate users must be on a SUPREME Plan in order to get telephone software support. Your firm must select a support plan: "Plain" SUPREME, or all-inclusive "All-In" SUPREME.

Please read carefully: If you are not on a support plan, you will not get any software support until you provide a VISA number and purchase a plan.

Plan I: "Plain" SUPREME includes service and support, a 10% discount on most purchases and eligibility for complimentary license(s); you pay for all software updates (Tools+, Forms+ and/or Precedents+). A single-user, "Plain" SUPREME plan starts at \$199/yr, plus 20% for each additional user license purchased.

Plan II: "All-In" SUPREME has been substantially enhanced for 2004: includes service and support, a 10% discount on most purchases and eligibility for complimentary license(s); all your annual software updates – FREE; *NEW* one training session – FREE; *NEW* Forms+ ISO forms – FREE.

A single-user, All-In SUPREME starts at \$624/year, plus 20% for each additional user license purchased.

Recommendation: If you have at least two DIVORCEmate products (Forms+ & Tools+, or Forms+ & Precedents+), you are better off with the "All-In" plan.

**Comparison: Assumes Single-User License
(Savings increase with more users)**

	No Plan	Plain SUPREME	All-In SUPREME
Service and support	\$199	Yes	Yes
New Software Purchases	List price	List price less 10%	List price less 10%
Training	\$89/pp	\$89/pp	One FREE
Forms+ 04	\$200+	\$180+	FREE
Precedents+ 04	\$100+	\$90+	FREE
Tools+ 04	\$280+	\$250+	FREE
New ISO Forms	\$100	\$90	FREE
Replacement CD, User guides	\$50	FREE	FREE
Complimentary license(s)	No	FREE	FREE
Wizard Tools+ service	\$149 each	\$149 each	3 FREE
Lowest price on new software	No	No	Yes
Invoices per year	6	6	1
SUPREME Cost	\$0	\$199	\$624
Totals	\$1,287	\$1,047	\$624 Best Deal

DIVORCEmate Software Update Schedule 2004

It is our intention to update each of our software product offerings, at least once each 12 months. We will be adding more forms, new features and benefits, including any anticipated legislative changes that would affect our software.

Current Product	2004 Update
Tools+ 2003 (all provinces)	March
Forms + 2003 Ontario	Summer
Forms+ 2003 B.C.	Summer
Precedents+ 2003	Fall

**The Six-Minute Family Lawyer 2003
CLE Law Society of Upper Canada**



The Hon. Mary Lou Benotto, Senior Justice, Superior Court of Justice, Family Court Branch said that The Superior Court of Justice has released its Family Law Statement of Policy in anticipation of the Family Law Rules rollout in 2004. The Court

has made a recommitment to: "core judges" who have a strong dedication to, and interest in family law; experienced family law judges will be doing "case management", including an informed "Case Conference" before any interim motion; **the Case Conference will become the cornerstone of a less adversarial family law justice system; The rollout of the rules will introduce case management to those SCJ sites that are non-Family Court sites.** As a result, non-Family Court sites will now case manage family files.

Professor Carol Rogerson said that work continues on the concept of **spousal support guidelines**. There is a working group of family law professionals from across the country that hopes to have the "basis" for broader consultation with the bench and bar by mid-2004. At this point in time, any proposed spousal support guidelines would not be legally binding, or legislated; they would be informal rules of practice, advisory only; based on "income sharing" models; factors would include – length of marriage (short, medium, long), incomes, child support; guidelines would produce a "range of numbers" with individual factors determining the final amount; duration of support is most difficult; quantum is easier.

The working group wants everyone to know that there will be lots of opportunity for input and that the Spousal Support Guidelines project won't go anywhere without support from the bench and bar.

What They're Saying About DIVORCEmate...

"I have Supportmate to assist me in determining the support owing from Mr. Murray to Mrs. Murray. Supportmate is a computer program that allows one to enter income figures for both parties in order to readily compare income tax payable and net disposable incomes at various levels of support."

- The Hon. Mme. Justice B. Croll, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Murray v Murray, 20030820

"Net Family Property Statement... – Powered by DIVORCEmate Software Inc."

- The Hon. Mme. Justice Linhares de Sousa, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Brophy v Brophy, 20020920,

Free Software: Judges (and lawyers) may download this generic NFP software with automatic math totals for free at: http://www.divorcemate.com/download_nfp.asp .

Recently DIVORCEmate was asked to review a complicated SUPPORTmate calculation that had been completed by an Ontario Superior Court Justice. The SUPPORTmate printout had been included in the Judge's Endorsement. The facts included: union dues, Worker's Compensation benefits, self-employment and employment income and imputed income. *Here is what we found:* the Honourable Justice's SUPPORTmate calculation was absolutely perfect!

**Contino v. Leonelli-Contino, OCA
Shared Custody Means S.9... All of It!**

"It is confusing and internally inconsistent. On the other hand, if you read it often enough, I think there is a rule there. Set off adjusted down to reflect limited ability to pay and/or up to reflect extra costs of shared custody. Won't assume former but will latter with a multiplier even though this lets lawyers off the hook for not doing their homework. Now, whether the rule makes any sense is something different." **James McLeod**, Professor, Family Lawyer

"A lot of complicated calculations to get a number that turns out to be almost exactly half way between the straight set-off of table amounts and the full table amount." **Rollie Thompson**, Professor, Dalhousie University

Family and Child Budgets May Be Back

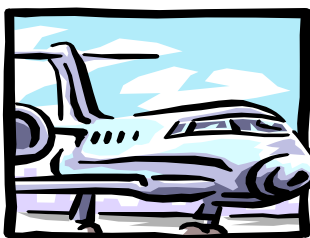
In order to help you with the necessity for possible budgets in a "shared" custody-parenting situation, here is some fairly recent Statistics Canada information.

Typical Canadian Household - Average Annual Expenditures (2001 \$58,796 and 2002 \$60,090)

Expenditure	% of Total 2001	% of Total 2002
Income taxes	21	20
Shelter	19	18.6
Transportation	13	14
Food	11	11.1
Insurance, retirement	5	5.7
Recreation	5	5.9
Household operations	5	4.6
Clothing	4	4.1
Personal, health care	4	5
Other	17	16.9

Adapted from Statistics Canada data

**National Family Law Program
Fairmont LeManoir Richelieu, Quebec
July 12-15 2004**



The National Family Law Program is a "must attend" for any serious family law practitioner in Canada. Everyone is there... old friends and long-time colleagues, vendors, an interesting agenda (*I hear that we'll get our first look at the spousal support guidelines discussion paper!*), relaxation, fun and parties.

This year all attendees will get a DIVORCEmate canvas-carrying bag for their binders!

And the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu is stunning: great food, magnificent architecture, world-class golf, whale watching, tennis, and a casino. Register and make your hotel reservations NOW! If you miss this event, you will have missed something special.

Contact Heather Walker familylawprogram@flsc.ca or visit <http://www.flsc.ca/en/lawSocieties/familyLaw.asp> .

**Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
Now Using DIVORCEmate Software**

DIVORCEmate is pleased to announce that we have donated and arranged installation of our DIVORCEmate software to this very important legal clinic.

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic in Toronto provides legal services to needy and abused women.

We are pleased to help out in any way possible. We would also like to thank Haim Ifrah for generously donating his time to install the DIVORCEmate software.

Clarification:

It has been brought to our attention that in our September 2003 newsletter, *DIVORCEmate News & Views*, we may have inadvertently suggested that the B.C. Judiciary is promoting DIVORCEmate's Tools+ software and is invariably using this product. The B.C. Judiciary is not endorsing our product and may use it simply as a tool in its discretion while always maintaining judicial independence. We sincerely apologize for any misconception or embarrassment which may have been caused by the article.

**Mark Harris
President, DIVORCEmate Software Inc.**