Kanton Bern
Canton de Berne

Cantonal Department of Home Affairs and Justice
KJA - Cantonal Youth Welfare Office

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Factsheet on payment support (*Inkassohilfe, aide au recouvrement*) in the Canton of Bern

What is payment support?

Payment support (*Inkassohilfe, aide au recouvrement*) is the assistance given to you if you do not receive any of the maintenance (*Unterhaltsbeiträge, Alimente, contributions d'entretien*) due to you, or do not receive it on time. A specialist unit will help you to obtain payment of maintenance and can also initiate legal action to claim the sums due.

Who can apply for payment support?

- Minor children and adult children still in full-time education
- Wives and husbands who are separated or divorced
- Partners following dissolution of a registered partnership

All that you require to apply is a valid and enforceable maintenance order.

Who is responsible for providing payment support?

Payment support is provided by a specialist unit at the place where you live. Ask at the offices of your commune of residence to find out which unit is responsible in your case.

What do I have to do in order to receive payment support?

You have to submit an application for payment support to the unit responsible for your commune. The unit will provide you with the form required and can help you to complete it.

You can apply for support not only if you have not received any maintenance at all, but also if payment has not been made in full, or on time, or if payment is not made regularly.

What will the payment support unit do?

The payment support unit will contact the person required to pay the maintenance, demand that payment be made and then forward the payments made to you. If need be, the unit can initiate legal action against the person required to pay maintenance.

How much does payment support cost?

The services that the payment support unit provides to obtain payment of maintenance for children come free of charge.

The services that the payment support unit provides to obtain payment of maintenance for other persons normally come free of charge. However, if you are divorced and require payment support to obtain payment of the maintenance due to you, the unit may require you to contribute to its costs, provided you have sufficient financial resources.

Where any debt enforcement, procedural or translation costs are incurred, the payment support unit will pay these up front. In principle, the person required to pay maintenance will ultimately be required to reimburse these costs. However, if you are divorced and the unit incurs costs in obtaining payment of the maintenance due to you, you may be required to contribute to these costs, provided you have sufficient financial resources.

Further information

Please contact the payment support unit responsible for your commune of residence.

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