

MAINTENANCE SUPPLEMENT

Maintenance Supplement is Additional Support for Children:

- If the lifestyle of the children would be significantly better if the children lived with the non-custodial parent, an additional amount of child support, called maintenance supplement, could be ordered to be paid to the primary caretaker parent by the other parent. The purpose of this payment is to make sure that the ability to provide gifts and extras for the children is equalized between the parents. It is not good for children to see that one parent barely has enough income to put food on the table, while the other parent takes the children on expensive vacations and gives them expensive presents. The court will not order maintenance supplement unless the primary custodial parent requests it.

How the Court Decides how much to Award:

- Before making a decision about maintenance supplement, the court has to take the financial circumstances of both parents into consideration, including:
 1. Gross income;
 2. Assets (wealth);
 3. Debts, including payment of taxes;
 4. How much child support is being now being paid.

Changes of Circumstances after the Divorce:

- Maintenance supplement can be ordered only for as long as child support is ordered. If the financial circumstances of the parents change significantly after the divorce, the maintenance supplement order can be changed by the court.

**You can obtain helpful information, as well as court forms at:
www.VermontJudiciary.org.**