

Special and Extraordinary Expenses

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If you and your child's other parent don't live together, you may receive or pay child support. Child support is usually based on the Child Support Guidelines. For more information about child support, see:

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/fl-lf/child-enfant/guide/toc-tdm.html>.

The Child Support Guidelines amount may include:

- An amount for basic expenses such as a child's food, clothing and housing.
- An additional amount for "special or extraordinary" expenses.

There are several kinds of special or extraordinary expenses:

- costs for childcare so you can go to work, school or training, or if you are ill
- medical and dental insurance premiums for your child
- health-related expenses of at least \$100 annually that are not paid for by insurance, for expenses such as dentistry, prescription drugs, hearing aids and glasses
- extraordinary expenses for primary or secondary school or educational programs
- expenses for post-secondary education
- extraordinary expenses for extracurricular activities

The expense needs to be **reasonable** and **necessary**. Your family's financial circumstances are important in deciding what is reasonable. This can include each parent's income and how the family dealt with these expenses in the past. The child's best interests are important in deciding what is necessary.

Some of these expenses must also be **extraordinary**. This generally means the requesting parent cannot cover the expense alone.

You should consider these factors:

- each parent's income and ability to contribute
- child support paid or received for basic expenses
- tax deductions or credits related to the expense
- for post-secondary expenses, the child's ability to contribute.

Parents may agree on **what** expenses are special or extraordinary, and **how** to pay these costs. If they cannot, the court can decide.

Determining special or extraordinary expenses can be complicated. Talk to a lawyer about these kinds of expenses.

For links and resources, visit cba.org/healthcheck