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## Shared Parenting Assistance

### General Principle

To provide additional shelter assistance to parents who have a shared custody court order or shared custody parenting agreement filed in court showing that they have a child(ren), who is *not* listed as a dependent child under their file, but who resides with them for no less than 40 percent of each month.

### Policy

Hardship recipients are not eligible for Shared Parenting Assistance (SPA).

The amount of SPA equals the amount of increase in shelter allowance attributed to the family, when the shared child(ren) is added to the family unit, based on actual shelter costs.

There is *no* support allowance component in SPA.

Parents are expected to make their own arrangements for sharing any portion of the Family Bonus that is issued by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

In situations where parents have a 50/50 custody arrangement under a shared custody order or a shared parenting agreement, and they cannot come to an agreement with respect to designating which parent will claim the child(ren) as a dependent for assistance purposes, neither parent may claim the child(ren) as a dependent child(ren), but both of them are eligible for SPA.

In order to be eligible for SPA, the parents must have a shared custody court order or a shared parenting agreement filed in court indicating that the child(ren) is residing with the parent for not less than 40 percent of each month (11 nights in the month of February, or 12 nights in the other calendar months).

## Procedure

Applicants/recipients who claim that they have a child(ren) living with them on the *Application for Social Assistance* (901-27) form must also indicate the percentage of time their child(ren) resides with them.

Applicants/recipients who do not have a shared custody court order or a shared parenting agreement filed in court that specifies the percentage of time the parent has the child(ren), must file a shared parenting agreement with the Court or get a court custody order to be eligible for SPA.

## Verification

By signing the *Application for Social Assistance* (901-27) form, applicants/recipients authorize the administering authority to periodically confirm with the other parent that there have been no changes in the shared parenting arrangement and that they continue to have their child(ren) at least 40 percent of the time in any given month.

Applicants/recipients must declare on the Social Assistance Monthly Renewal Declaration (901-28) of any changes with the SPA and the amount of Family Bonus that they are receiving from the other parent.