

**SUPREME COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA**  
**FAMILY DIVISION**

Citation: *Armoyan v. Armoyan*, 2015 NSSC 174

Date: 2015-06-15

Docket: No. SFHISOA 080027

Registry: Halifax

**Between:**

Lisa Armoyan

Applicant

v.

Vrege Armoyan

Respondent

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**Judge:** The Honourable Justice Theresa M. Forgeron

**Heard:** April 29, 2015, in Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Decision:** June 15, 2015

**Subject:** Contempt

**Issues:**

- Proof of elements of contempt
- Discretionary authority
- Procedural and jurisdictional shields

**Conclusion:**

- Wife proved the three elements of contempt beyond a reasonable doubt.
- The order directing the husband to pay child and spousal support, inclusive of arrears, was clear and unambiguous.
- The husband was aware of the order and refused to pay maintenance in accordance with the court order.
- Justice demanded the granting of a contempt order where the husband had access to millions of dollars, and yet consistently failed to abide by the court order.
- The husband was not shielded from a finding of contempt because of the jurisdictional and procedural irregularities advanced. Neither s. 11(h), nor the **Kienapple** principle was applicable.
- The *Maintenance Enforcement Act* was not designed as a shield for payors who refused to pay maintenance. The *MEA* is a sword fashioned to ensure compliance and collection of spousal and child maintenance.
- The penalty stage was scheduled and the husband was ordered to pay the arrears outstanding.

***THIS INFORMATION SHEET DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE COURT'S  
DECISION. QUOTES MUST BE FROM THE DECISION, NOT THIS LIBRARY***

**SHEET**