

Bereavement Allowances

If you're on a low income and need help to pay for a funeral you're arranging, you may be eligible for a Funeral Payment from the Social Fund if you or your partner are getting any of the following benefits or tax credits

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit (or the Council Tax payer where you live gets a Second Adult Rebate because you are on a low income)
- Working Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
- Child Tax Credit at a rate higher than the family element

To be able to get a Funeral Payment you must also be either:

- the partner or parent of the deceased when they died
- a close relative or close friend of the deceased (and it is reasonable for you to accept responsibility for the funeral costs)

Amount

A Funeral Payment includes the necessary burial or cremation fees. This includes the:

- cost of a new grave
- burial fees

If the person who died had a pre-paid funeral plan, you'll only get help for items not already covered by the plan.

How benefits are paid

If you choose to use the services of a funeral director the Funeral Payment will usually be paid directly into the funeral director's bank account. If the funeral director's bill has been paid the payment will be made to you.

Continued overleaf



How to claim

Phone the DWP on 0845 604 3719 and ask for a form SF200 and send it with the final invoice within 3 months of the funeral date.

You can also download the claim form from the DWP website

www.dwp.gov.uk and click on the benefits link, then death and bereavement link and the SF200 is on the right hand side of the page.

Bereavement Payment

If your husband, wife or civil partner has died you may be able to get a one-off, lump-sum payment of £2,000 that's tax-free.

Who can claim

You may be able to claim Bereavement Payment if your husband, wife or civil partner had paid their National Insurance contributions (NICs) or their death was caused by their job and either:

- you were under State Pension age when they died
- your husband, wife or civil partner was not entitled to Category A state Retirement Benefit when they died

Amount

- The £2,000 payment is a one-off tax-free lump sum.

How to Claim

Phone the DWP on 0845 604 3719 and ask for a form BB1 and send it with the final invoice within 3 months of the funeral date.

You can also download the claim form from the DWP website

www.dwp.gov.uk and click on the benefits link, then death and bereavement link and the BB1 form is on the right hand side of the page.

Once you've completed the form, send it to your nearest Jobcentre Plus office as soon as possible.

Claims can only be backdated three months for Bereavement Allowance, so if you delay you may lose benefit. The time limit for claiming Bereavement Payment has been extended to 12 months.

