



Department for
Communities

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Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Bereavement Support Payment

Help for when your husband, wife, civil partner or partner you were living with as if married has died

If this is hard for you to read.

We can provide this information in a different way such as large print or in other formats.

Please get in touch with us for more information on how we can help you.

Contact the Bereavement Service on **0800 085 2463**. If you have speech or hearing difficulties and prefer to use a textphone, the number is **0808 100 2198**.

Calls to **0800** and **0808** numbers are free from landlines and mobiles.

The application form and more information is available at [**www.nidirect.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment**](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment)

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What is Bereavement Support Payment

This is a tax free benefit based on your late partner's National Insurance (NI) contributions. By your partner we mean either your husband, wife, civil partner, or partner that you lived with as if you were married to them, at the time of their death.

Can I get Bereavement Support Payment?

You may be able to get Bereavement Support Payment if your late partner died on or after 6 April 2017, and at the time of death:

- you were under State Pension age
- you were:
 - married or in a civil partnership with the person who died, or
 - you were living with the person who died as if you were married and you had dependent children who were under the age of 20, or
 - you were living with the person who died as if you were married and you were expecting a child
- your late partner paid enough National Insurance contributions, and
- you ordinarily lived in the UK or a country with which we have a reciprocal agreement to pay certain UK benefits.

If your late partner died before 6 April 2017 go to the 'More information' section on page 4 of these notes.

If you are still not sure if you can get Bereavement Support Payment, claim anyway.

How much could I get

Bereavement Support Payment is paid to you as a one off, lump-sum payment followed by up to 18 monthly payments. You may not get the lump-sum payment and you may get fewer than 18 monthly payments depending on when you claim and when you reach State Pension age.

There are 2 rates of Bereavement Support Payment.

Higher rate - this is made up of:

- a lump-sum payment of £3,500, and
- up to 18 monthly payments of £350.

Standard rate - this is made up of:

- a lump-sum payment of £2,500, and
- up to 18 monthly payments of £100.

Who can get the higher rate

You may be able to get the higher rate of Bereavement Support Payment if:

- you were entitled to Child Benefit when your late partner died
- you were expecting a child when your late partner died.

If you or your late partner were in the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge group and you have not claimed Child Benefit, you must do so for your claim for the higher rate of Bereavement Support Payment to be considered. For more information on the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge, go to www.gov.uk/child-benefit-tax-charge

If your late partner was claiming Child Benefit and you have not yet made a claim to transfer it to your name, you must do so for your claim for the higher rate of Bereavement Support Payment to be considered. Find out more at www.gov.uk/child-benefit-child-parent-dies

How to claim

Fill in form BSP1.

You can also make a claim by calling the Bereavement Service on **0800 085 2463** or textphone **0808 100 2198**.

We are sorry to have to ask you some questions about your late partner. We need to ask these questions because Bereavement Support Payment is affected by their National Insurance contributions.

If you have any difficulty filling in this claim form, someone else can help you do it. You can ask a friend, relative or an advice centre. Or ask at your local Jobs & Benefits office.

When to claim

You should send us the completed claim form BSP1 as soon as possible.

More information

If your late partner died before 6 April 2017 and you were expecting a child or had dependent children under 20 years old when they died, you may be able to get Widowed Parent's Allowance. You can find out more at www.nidirect.gov.uk/widowed-parents-allowance

You can find out more about Bereavement Support Payment at www.nidirect.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment

EEA and Swiss nationals need to have an EU Settlement Scheme status

The United Kingdom (UK) has left the European Union (EU). If you are a European Economic Area or Swiss national, you and your family members need to get a UK immigration status to carry on living in the UK after 30 June 2021.

You and your family need a status even if you have already been issued with a permanent residence document by the Home Office, or have been living in the UK for a long time. You need to apply for an immigration status to be eligible for benefits. This includes new and existing claims to benefits.

It is free to apply for a UK immigration status. Irish nationals and those with indefinite leave to remain in the UK do not need to apply.

For more information and to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme please visit www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme or call **0300 123 7379**. You do not need to contact the Department for Communities (DfC) when you apply or get a status. If DfC need details about your status they will contact you.

More about Bereavement Support Payment

Is Bereavement Support Payment affected by earnings?

No. Bereavement Support Payment is not means tested.

This means if you work, your Bereavement Support Payment will not go down because of the money you earn.

Will Bereavement Support Payment affect any benefits I get?

No. Bereavement Support Payment will not have an impact on any other benefits you get. In the longer term, any other benefit you get might be affected if you have not spent your Bereavement Support Payment.

You must tell us about your Bereavement Support Payment if you apply for another benefit.

Is Bereavement Support Payment taxable?

No. All payments are tax free.

Help and advice

If you want more information about Bereavement Support Payment, contact the Bereavement Service on **0800 085 2463**. If you have speech or hearing difficulties and prefer to use a textphone, the number is **0808 100 2198**.

Calls to 0800 and 0808 numbers are free from landlines and mobiles.

You can also contact your local Jobs & Benefits office. You can find your nearest Jobs & Benefits office by visiting [**www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/jobs-and-benefits-offices**](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/jobs-and-benefits-offices)

You can find out more information on our benefits and services by visiting [**www.nidirect.gov.uk**](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

Keep these notes in a safe place. They do not need to be returned with the form.

