

Bereavement Support Payment

**Help for widows, widowers
and surviving civil partners**

This pack contains

- more information about Bereavement Support Payment
- a Bereavement Support Payment claim form



Department
for Work &
Pensions

BSP1 Notes
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What is Bereavement Support Payment?

You may be able to get Bereavement Support Payment if your husband, wife or civil partner died on or after 6 April 2017.

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.

Bereavement Support Payment is tax free. It is based on your husband, wife or civil partner's National Insurance (NI) contributions.

How much you could get

There are 2 rates of Bereavement Support Payment.

If you are pregnant or have dependent children under the age of 20, you could get the higher rate. This is made up of:

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

If you have no dependent children, you could get the standard rate. This is made up of:

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

Who can claim

You could get Bereavement Support Payment if at the time of death:

- you were under State Pension age
- you were married to or in a civil partnership with the person who died
- your husband, wife or civil partner paid enough National Insurance contributions, and
- you ordinarily lived in the UK, a country with which we have a reciprocal agreement to pay certain UK benefits, or a European Union or European Economic Area country

The information in these notes will help you see if you are able to get any Bereavement Support Payment.

You can find out more about Bereavement Support Payment at

www.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment

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

If your husband, wife or civil partner died before 6 April 2017 you may be able to get:

- Bereavement Payment
- Bereavement Allowance
- Widowed Parent's Allowance – if you are pregnant or have dependent children under 20 years old

You can find out more about bereavement benefits at

www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/bereavement

Who can get the higher rate

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

- you qualify for and claim Child Benefit for a child who was living with you or your late husband, wife or civil partner when they died
- you qualify for Child Benefit when your husband, wife or civil partner died
- you were pregnant when your husband, wife or civil partner died

If none of the above applies to you, you may still be able to get the standard rate of Bereavement Support Payment.

If you or your late husband, wife or civil partner fell into 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.

To find out more about making a claim for Child Benefit, visit **www.gov.uk/child-benefit**

For more information on the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge, visit **www.gov.uk/child-benefit-tax-charge**

If your late husband, wife or civil 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**

More information

Telephone the HMRC helpline on **0300 200 3100**.

Lines are open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 4pm, Saturday.

If you have hearing or speech difficulties and prefer to use a textphone, the number is **0300 200 3103**.

National Insurance contributions

You may be able to get Bereavement Support Payment if your husband, wife or civil partner paid enough National Insurance contributions.

HMRC can give you information on your late husband, wife or civil partner's National Insurance records. Find out more at **www.gov.uk**

How to claim

Fill in form **BSP1**.

We are sorry to have to ask you some questions about your husband, wife or civil 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 such as Citizens Advice. Or ask at your local Jobcentre Plus.

Make sure you sign the **Declaration** in **Part 6** of the claim form.

When to claim

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

You must send us your claim form within 3 months of the death of your husband, wife or civil partner. If you leave it longer, you may get fewer payments. If you claim more than 12 months after the death of your husband, wife or civil partner, you won't get any lump-sum payment.

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 won't go down because of the money you earn.

Will Bereavement Support Payment affect any benefits I get?

No. Bereavement Support Payment won't 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 731 0139**. If you have speech or hearing difficulties and prefer to use a textphone, the number is **0800 731 0464**.

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

You can also contact your local Jobcentre Plus. You can find your nearest Jobcentre Plus by visiting **www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus**

Or you can find the phone number and the address in the business numbers section of the phone book. Look under Jobcentre Plus.

Voluntary organisations that may be able to help

- Your local Citizens Advice
- Cruse Bereavement Care offers emotional support to the bereaved. You can contact them on

Helpline **0808 808 1677**

Website **www.cruse.org.uk**

Cruse is not able to give advice on bereavement payments or other financial matters.

