



Widowed parent's Allowance

Help for widowed parents

This pack contains more information about claiming Widowed Parent's Allowance.

Other ways to communicate with us

If you need braille, British Sign Language, a hearing loop, translations, large print, Easy Read, audio or something else, please contact us on 0800 151 2012.

If you use Relay UK dial 18001 followed by our telephone number.

If you live in Wales and want these notes in Welsh call 0800 731 0453.

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

Important information

Widowed Parent's Allowance (WPA) is taxable income, so you may need to pay tax on any WPA payments and back payments you get. If you Pay As You Earn (PAYE), you do not need to do anything, we will tell HMRC how much you get, including any back payments.

If you are a Self-Assessment (SA) customer, you should either declare WPA payments and WPA back payments on your Self-Assessment Tax Returns (SATRs), for each tax year, or write to HMRC to include the WPA back payments on your previous SATRs. For more information go to

www.gov.uk/self-assessment-tax-returns/corrections

What is Widowed Parent's Allowance

This is a benefit based on your late partner's National Insurance (NI) contributions. By your partner we mean the person you were living with, as if you were married, at the time of their death.

Can I get Widowed Parent's Allowance?

You may be able to get Widowed Parent's Allowance if your late partner had paid enough National Insurance contributions.

You cannot get Widowed Parent's Allowance if at the time of your late partner's death:

- you were no longer living together, as if you were married,
- you had married or formed a civil partnership with another person, or
- you were living with another person.

The following questions will help you to find out if you may be able to get Widowed Parent's Allowance.

01 Are you or were you entitled to Child Benefit for one of your children or one of your late partner's children?

No

Yes

02 Are you or were you entitled to Child Benefit, but not getting it because you or your late partner fell into the High-Income Child Benefit charge group?

No

Yes

03 Was your late partner getting Child Benefit?

No

Yes

04 Were you pregnant by your late partner or by artificial means at the time your partner died?

No

Yes

You may be able to get Widowed Parent's Allowance if:

- you have answered **Yes** to at least one of these questions, and
- your late partner had paid enough NI contributions.

If you are entitled to Widowed Parent's Allowance, the amount that you can get is based on the National Insurance contributions of your late partner. You can usually get Widowed Parent's Allowance as long as you are or were entitled to Child Benefit. If you fall or fell into the High-Income Child Benefit charge group, and you have not claimed Child Benefit, you must do so for your claim for Widowed Parent's Allowance to be considered. Please contact HMRC to make your claim.

If your late partner was claiming Child Benefit, and you have not yet made a claim to transfer the Child Benefit to your name, you must do so before your Widowed Parent's Allowance claim can be considered. Please contact HMRC to make your claim to transfer the Child Benefit to you.

For more information about Child Benefit:

- go to www.gov.uk/child-benefit/how-to-claim
- telephone the HMRC Helpline on 0300 200 3100.

How to claim Widowed Parent's Allowance

Fill in claim form **BB2**. Here is some more information to help you answer some of the questions on the form.

Question 25 asks you about the children in your household when your late partner died. If there were more than 4 children, please use the 'More information' box on **page 9** to provide the details of the other children.

Question 27 asks if you maintained any child or children who had left your household after your late partner died. This means did you provide financial support to the person looking after the child or children when they were not in your household.

Questions 32, 33 and 34 ask you about any later relationships you have had since your late partner died.

We need to know the dates of any relationships and whether you were married, in a civil partnership or living together with someone as if you were married. Please tell us the date your relationship started, and if it has ended, the date it ended and whether you are still in a relationship today.

If you need more space to tell us about your later relationships, please use the more information box on **page 9** of the **BB2** form.

If you have any difficulty filling in this claim form, someone else can do it for you. You can ask a friend, a relative or an advice centre.

Please make sure that you sign the Declaration on **page 12** of the claim form.

What to do next

You should send us the claim form **BB2** as soon as possible. The address to send it to is at the end of the form.

Help and advice

Calls to 0800 numbers are free from landlines or mobiles.

Further help and support may be available from your local Citizens Advice [**www.citizensadvice.org.uk**](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

Cruse Bereavement Care offers emotional support to the bereaved. You can contact them on:

- Helpline **0808 808 1677** (freephone number)
- Email **helpline@cruse.org.uk**
- Website **www.cruse.org.uk**

This organisation is not able to give advice on bereavement payments, other benefits or financial matters.

How DWP collects and uses information

When we collect information about you, we may use it for any of our purposes. These include:

- social security benefits and allowances
- child maintenance
- employment and training
- investigating and prosecuting tax credits offences
- private pensions policy and retirement planning.

We may get information about you from other parties for any of our purposes as the law allows to check the information you provide and improve our services. We may give information about you to other organisations as the law allows, for example to protect against crime.

To find out more about our purposes, how we use personal information for those purposes and your information rights, including how to request a copy of your information, please visit [**www.gov.uk/dwp/personal-information-charter**](http://www.gov.uk/dwp/personal-information-charter)

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