

# **Bereavement Benefits**



## **Bereavement Allowance**

After you're widowed you may be able to claim Bereavement Allowance, the taxable weekly benefit paid to you for up to 52 weeks from the date of death of your husband, wife or civil partner.

## **Who can claim**

You may be able to claim Bereavement Allowance if all of the following apply:

- you're a widow, widower or surviving civil partner aged 45 or over when your husband, wife or civil partner died
- you're not bringing up children
- you're under State Pension age
- your late husband, wife or civil partner paid National Insurance contributions (NICs), or they died as a result of an industrial accident or disease

## **National Insurance contributions and Bereavement Allowance**

When you fill in the claim form you'll be asked to give your late husband's, wife's or civil partner's National Insurance number and details of their recent employment history.

This will allow the office that deals with your claim to look into their National Insurance record and work out how much - if any - Bereavement Allowance you might get.

## **Who can't claim**

You can't claim Bereavement Allowance if:

- you were divorced from your late husband or wife at the time of their death
- your civil partnership was dissolved at the time of your civil partner's death
- you're living with another person as if you are married to them or as if you have formed a civil partnership
- you're in prison

If you were over State Pension age when you were widowed or became a surviving civil partner you may get extra State Pension based on your late husband's, wife's or civil partner's NICs.

If you're widowed below State Pension age and you have a dependent child you can claim Widowed Parent's Allowance. But you can't get Widowed Parents Allowance and Bereavement Allowance at the same time.

## **How much do you get**

<b>Your age at your partner or civil partner's death</b>	<b>Maximum weekly rate (2010-2011)</b>
45 years old	£29.30
46 years old	£36.13
47 years old	£42.97
48 years old	£49.80
49 years old	£56.64

in Connect Wyre Forest  
10-12 Blackwell Street  
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50 years old	£63.47
51 years old	£70.31
52 years old	£77.14
53 years old	£83.98
54 years old	£90.81
55 years old to State Pension age	£97.65

The actual amount you may get depends on:

- the overall level of your partner or civil partner's National Insurance contributions (NICs)
- your age at the time of his or her death
- if relevant, when your Widowed Parent's Allowance stops, and this is within 52 weeks of your bereavement, you may be able to get Bereavement Allowance. This will depend on your age at the time you were bereaved.

### **How it's paid**

Bereavement Allowance is paid directly into your bank, building society, Post Office® or National Savings account that accepts Direct Payment.

If you're blind or need someone who cares for you to collect the money, you can be sent a cheque to cash at the Post Office®.

From April 2009 Jobcentre Plus are introducing changes to the day and how often you are paid Bereavement Allowance. The changes could move the day you are paid, this day will be determined by your National Insurance number. The changes also mean you will be paid at least every two weeks. For more information follow the link below.

### **Effect on other benefits**

Once you get Bereavement Allowance, your payments may change if you're already getting any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Incapacity Benefit
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit

The Jobcentre Plus office that deals with your claim will explain how this works.

### **How to claim**

You can order a Bereavement Benefits claim pack, Form BB1 over the telephone from your nearest Jobcentre Plus office. The pack also has help notes on how to complete the claim form.

### **Download a claim form to print off and fill in**

You can also download the form from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website.

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 and are dated when the office gets them, so if you delay you may lose benefit.

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### **What to do if your circumstances change**

If you remarry, or start living with someone as if married to them you will no longer qualify for Bereavement Allowance. In this case you must tell the office that deals with your payments.

### **What else you need to know**

You'll need to prove your identity when making a claim. You'll also have to answer questions about your circumstances and show official documents to support the information.

**We cannot be held responsible for the level of service provided by the organisations included in this publication.**

All details correct at time of publication, if you find that this info is inaccurate please call us.

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