

You can apply:

- online at [www.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment/how-to-claim](https://www.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment/how-to-claim)
- by phone via the government's Bereavement Service helpline on 0800 151 2012 or textphone 0800 731 0464
- by post by downloading a claim form using the link above or contacting the Bereavement Service helpline to get one sent to you by post



# Bereavement Support Payment

If your partner passes away before you reach state pension age, you may be due bereavement support payments

**Sunderland  
City Council**

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Bereavement Support Payment can help you if your husband, wife, civil partner or partner has recently died. It's not means tested so you can still claim even if you have savings or are working. The amount of Bereavement Support Payment you get depends on your relationship to the person who died and when you claim.

## Eligibility

When your partner passed away, you must have been:

- under State Pension age
- living in the UK or a country that pays bereavement benefits
- married to your partner, in a civil partnership with them, or living with them as if you were married

And your partner must have either:

- paid a certain amount of Class 1 or Class 2 National Insurance (NI) contributions in any one tax year since 6 April 1975
- or
- died because of an accident at work or a disease caused by work

If you're not sure if your partner had paid enough NI contributions, you can still claim and the government's Bereavement Service will check.

## What you'll get

The amount of Bereavement Support Payment you can get will depend on:

- your relationship to the person who passed away
- when you make your claim
- when you reach State Pension age

There are two different rates available, higher and lower rate. You'll get higher rate if you were eligible for or receiving child benefit for a child that lived with you (or pregnant) and the most you can get is a one-off payment of £3,500 and up to 18 monthly payments of £350.

If you're not eligible for the higher rate, you'll get the lower rate where the most you can get is a one-off payment of £2,500 and up to 18 monthly payments of £100.

You must claim within three months of your partner's death to get the one-off payment and all 18 monthly payments.

You can still claim after three months but might get fewer monthly payments or miss out on the one-off payment, depending on how long after your partner's death you claim.

## If you get benefits

Bereavement Support Payment will not affect your benefits for a year after your first payment. After a year, any money you have left from your first payment could affect the amount you get if you renew or make a claim for another benefit. You must tell your local Jobcentre Plus when you start getting Bereavement Support Payment.

## How to claim

To apply, you'll need:

- your National Insurance number
- your bank or building society account details
- the date your partner died
- your partner's National Insurance number