

If a close relative of the deceased (such as a sibling or parent) is in work or not getting a qualifying benefit, you might not get a Funeral Expenses Payment.

You might be able to get a Funeral Expenses Payment if:

- the deceased did not have a partner when they died
- the partner of the deceased or parent of a deceased child cannot claim (for example, they live abroad or are in prison)

### How to claim?

You must apply within six months of the funeral, even if you're waiting for a decision on a qualifying benefit. You can make a claim before the funeral if you've got an invoice or signed contract from the funeral director (it cannot be an estimate). If you get Universal Credit, you will not get a decision on your claim until after your next payment.

You can apply:

- by phone via the national Bereavement Service helpline on 0800 151 2012 or Textphone 0800 731 0464. The adviser will also help you claim any other bereavement benefits you might be entitled to
- by post by downloading a claim form at: [www.gov.uk/funeral-payments](http://www.gov.uk/funeral-payments) or contact the national Bereavement Service Helpline to get one sent to you by post.

**Sunderland  
City Council**



# Funeral Expenses Payment

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If you're on a low income and are receiving certain benefits, you may be entitled to financial support to help you pay for a funeral you're arranging. This support is from government and is called a Funeral Expenses Payment.

## What you'll get:

A Funeral Expenses Payment can help pay for:

- death certificates or other documents
- cremation fees, including the cost of the doctor's certificate
- travel to arrange or go to the funeral
- the cost of moving the body within the UK, if it's being moved more than 50 miles
- burial fees for a particular plot
- you can also get money for any other funeral expenses, such as funeral director's fees, flowers or the coffin.

The payment will not usually cover all the costs of the funeral and how much you get depends on your circumstances. This includes any other money that's available to cover the costs, for example from an insurance policy or the deceased person's estate.

If you get a Funeral Expenses Payment, you'll usually have to pay the government back from any money you get from the person's estate, such as their savings.

## Eligibility

You can get a Funeral Expenses Payment if all the following apply:

- you get certain benefits or tax credits

- you meet the rules on your relationship with the deceased
- you're arranging a funeral in the UK, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland

You (or your partner) must get one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- the disability or severe disability element of Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit

You might also be eligible if you're getting a Support for Mortgage Interest loan. You can still claim Funeral Expenses Payment if you've applied for these benefits and you're waiting to hear about your claim.

## Rules on your relationship with the person who died

You might be able to get a Funeral Expenses Payment if you are:

- the partner of the person who died
- the parent of a baby stillborn after 24 weeks of pregnancy
- the parent or person responsible for a deceased child who was under 16 (or under 20 and in approved education or training)