



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

A guide to Funeral Support Payment



Dignity,
fairness,
respect.

mygov.scot

What is Funeral Support Payment?

It's a payment available to people in Scotland, who are on certain benefits or tax credits, and need support to meet the costs of a funeral.

Can I get it?

You may be eligible if you meet all of the criteria below:

- you are responsible for the payment of the funeral
- you live in Scotland
- the person who died lived in the UK
- you are the nearest relative of the person who died
- the funeral takes place in the UK or, in some cases, in a member state of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland
- you are in receipt of, or have applied for one of the qualifying benefits.*

*Universal Credit (UC), Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit (CTC) and disability or severe disability element of Working Tax Credit.

When can I apply?

People can apply from when the person dies, and up to six months after the funeral.

How much will I get?

It is a part-payment and will cover some, but likely not all, of the funeral costs. This is dependent on individual funeral choices and varying fees for services across Scotland.

If eligible, the amount you get will depend on what you have claimed and what funds were left by the person who died.

Funeral Support Payment can pay an average of £1,300 and can cover:

- burial and cremation costs (these costs vary throughout the country, therefore an average local amount will be paid)

- £700 for other expenses. If the person who died had a funeral plan or funeral insurance, this amount will be reduced to £120
- some travel costs, document costs and medical costs.

How many people can get this payment?

One person per funeral.

How can I apply?

You can apply using our freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222, by post or online at mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment.

Before you apply for Funeral Support Payment you should register the death and give your funeral director (if you have one) consent to speak with us about your application. Doing so will speed up the processing time for your application.

How long after applying will people have to wait to get their payment?

You should receive a decision within 10 working days of us receiving a completed application form, along with all supportive evidence that is required. Your payment will follow shortly afterwards.

What evidence will be required?

Bills or receipts for the items you are claiming, for example travel receipts to plan or attend the funeral, will be required. You will be sent a pre-paid envelope that you should return to us to start your application.

Do I need to pay this money back?

No, it's not a loan and doesn't need to be repaid by you. If the person who died left financial assets we will recover this payment from their estate.

Is the money paid to me directly?

We pay it directly to your chosen financial account or direct to the funeral director (this is normally the preferred choice, but we will need your permission to do this).

Does it affect other benefits?

No, Funeral Support Payment will not have an impact on any other benefits or tax credits.

Who is Social Security Scotland?

Social Security Scotland was set up by the Scottish Government to deliver a number of benefits.

These benefits will be introduced in stages by the Scottish Government. Once fully operational, we will be delivering benefits for people on low incomes, disabled people, carers, young people entering the workplace and to help people heat their homes.

Our head office is in Dundee, with a second base in Glasgow. We also have a growing team of people based across the country who are establishing a pre application face to face support service for our clients.

You can find out more about Social Security Scotland online at socialsecurity.gov.scot.

Contact us.

By phone on 0800 182 2222

Text Relay Service: 18001+ 0300 244 4000 (service for the hard of hearing)

If you are a British Sign Language (BSL) user, you can contact us via our national BSL video relay service Contact Scotland-BSL

Visit contactscotland-bsl.org/device-direct/

This leaflet can be provided in alternative languages or formats by calling 0800 182 2222.



mygov.scot/benefits



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