



Bereavement benefits

What are bereavement benefits?

There are three benefits available if you have had a bereavement. These are bereavement allowance, bereavement payment and widowed parents allowance.

Bereavement allowance

This is a weekly taxable benefit paid to you for 52 weeks, from the date of your husband, civil partner or wife's death. You must be over age 45 but under pension age when your husband, civil partner or wife dies. The amount you get depends on your age and your spouse or civil partner's contribution record (but it can also be paid if he or she died as a result of an industrial accident or prescribed industrial disease). You cannot get bereavement allowance if you are in receipt of widowed parent's allowance but you can get it after widowed parent's allowance ceases to be paid. You also cannot get bereavement allowance once you have reached the retirement pension age.

Bereavement payment

This is a tax free lump sum paid to you when your husband, civil partner or wife has died. Payment depends on your spouse or civil partner's contribution record (but it can also be paid if he or she died as a result of an industrial accident or prescribed industrial disease). It cannot be paid to you once you reach retirement pension age unless your husband/wife was not entitled to retirement pension based on her/his own contributions when s/he died.

Widowed parents allowance

Widowed parent's allowance is paid if you are a widow/widower having care of a child or children or are a widow expecting a child. It is a weekly contributory benefit based on your spouse or civil partner's contribution record (but it can also be paid if he or she died as a result of an industrial accident or prescribed industrial disease). Payment stops when you reach pension age.



How much are they worth?

bereavement allowance - £95.25 a week

bereavement payment - a tax free lump sum of £2000

widowed parents allowance - £95.25 a week

How do I claim?

You claim all of these benefits on form BB1, available from your local Department for Work and Pensions office (DWP) or Jobcentre Plus office – 0845 608 8571. You can also download a form from the DWP website at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk.

Where can I get more help or advice?

DIAL Great Yarmouth

12a George Street

Great Yarmouth

Norfolk

NR30 1HR

Telephone 01493 856900

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm