



Social Security
Scotland

Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Funeral Support Payment

What is Funeral Support Payment?

It's a payment available to people in Scotland, who are getting Universal Credit, tax credits or other qualifying benefits, and need support to help pay towards the costs of a funeral.

Who can get it?

People may be eligible for Funeral Support Payment if they meet all of the criteria below:

- they live in Scotland
- they or their partner are getting certain benefits or tax credits*
- the person who died lived in the UK
- the funeral is being held in the UK or in some circumstances in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland
- they are applying after the person has died, until 6 months after the date of their funeral
- they or their partner are responsible for the funeral
- it is reasonable for them or their partner to accept responsibility for the funeral costs.

Usually, it is reasonable for the nearest relative of the person who died to accept responsibility for the funeral costs. A nearest relative could be a partner, child, parent or sibling. If you or your partner are not the nearest relative, you'll need to explain to us when you apply, why it's reasonable to have accepted responsibility.

* 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.

An eligibility checker is included at the beginning of the online form and on page 2 of the paper application form.

How much is the payment?

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

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

Funeral Support Payment can cover:

- burial and cremation costs (these costs vary throughout the country, therefore we have published the reasonable local costs we will pay: mygov.scot/burial-cremation-costs-scotland)
- a flat rate for any other expenses - £1257.75 for the majority of applications and £153.50 if the person who died had made provision for their funeral through a funeral plan
- some travel costs, document costs and medical costs.

How many people can get this payment?

1 person per funeral.

How do people apply?

People can find out more and apply online at mygov.scot/funeralsupport. People can also apply in person, over the phone or ask for a paper application form by post by calling us free on **0800 182 2222**.

Before applying for Funeral Support Payment, people should register the death or stillbirth and give their funeral director (if they have one) consent to speak with us about their application - doing so will minimise the time taken to process the application.

There are 2 application forms – a child application form and an adult application form. The application forms are marked clearly in the top right-hand corner. The form for the funeral for a young person or child asks fewer questions.

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

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

What evidence will be required?

If they were told they'd need to send copies of any certificates, receipts or bills when they applied, they'll need to send this before Social Security Scotland can finish checking their application. They can either send this online at mygov.scot/uploading-your-documents or they will be sent a pre-paid envelope that they should return to Social Security Scotland.

Does the person need to pay this money back?

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

Who is paid the money?

The money will be paid directly to the person's chosen financial account or direct to the funeral director (this is usually the client's preferred choice but we will need their permission to do this).

When can people apply?

People can apply after the person the funeral is for has died and up to 6 months after the date of the funeral.



There are many people worrying about the cost of living. You are not alone. To learn what help you might be entitled to, please visit gov.scot/costoflivingsupport. Or visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau.