

# The Bereavement Service for Northern Ireland

Freephone: 0800 085 2463

Textphone: 0808 100 2198

The Bereavement Service is a telephony based service that will allow you to:

- **Report a death** – The service will record the date of death and tell each office that paid benefit to the deceased.
- **Check for help with Funeral Costs** – If eligible the service can take claim details for a Funeral Expenses Payment or a Child Funeral Fund payment over the phone or arrange a suitable call back. (See details overleaf)
- **Check for help from Bereavement Support Payment** – If eligible the service can take claim details for a Bereavement Support Payment over the phone or arrange a suitable call back.
- **Offer advice on potential benefits or other support that may be available.**

## To report a death you will need the following details:

### Regarding the deceased:

- Date of death, date of birth and National Insurance number
- Their address
- Any benefits they received
- Your relationship to the deceased



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[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

## What is Bereavement Support Payment?

This gives financial support to people for a period after the death of a partner.

We refer to the person who has died as 'your partner'. By this we mean either your husband, wife, civil partner, or partner that you lived with as if you were married to them.

You do not need to be in receipt of benefit or on a low income to apply.

Payments are tax-free, however in some circumstances they may be treated as savings for other benefit(s).

Payments may consist of an initial payment followed by a series of smaller monthly payments for up to a maximum period of 18 months, unless you reach State Pension age during this period.

A claim should be made within 3 months of the date of death to receive the full award.

For further details on eligibility criteria please go to: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment)

### How to claim Bereavement Support Payment and what you will need to make a claim:

You can complete a claim online, or download an application form from [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk). Alternatively you can claim over the phone by contacting the Bereavement Service on **0800 085 2463** and select option 1.

You will need details about:

- Your contact details, date of birth, National Insurance number and bank account details
- Your children's details if applicable (names, where they live)
- Date of your Marriage/Civil Partnership (if applicable)

## Funeral Expenses Payment

The Funeral Expenses Payment can help pay for:

- Burial fees and rights to burial in a particular plot or cremation fees, including the cost of the doctor's certificate
- Funeral expenses, such as funeral directors fees, flowers and coffin up to a fixed amount
- Travel to arrange or go to the funeral
- The cost for moving the body within the UK but only for the part of the journey that is over 50 miles.
- Getting medical reference, report or documentation required in connection with the disposal of the body whether it be by burial, cremation or otherwise
- The cost of documents needed to release the money, savings and property of the person who died.

You might have to repay some or all of it from the deceased person's estate.

### To claim a Funeral Expenses Payment you will need:

- You and your partner's contact details, date of birth, National Insurance number and any benefit entitlements you and your partner are receiving (inc. Tax Credits)
- Your bank account details
- The Funeral Director's details
- Pre-paid funeral plan details or any money available to pay for the funeral
- Details of the person dealing with the estate and, if applicable, the probate solicitor's details.

## Child Funeral Fund

The Child Funeral Fund provides a one-off lump sum payment to help cover the expense of a funeral in the event of the death of a child under the age of 18, or stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy.

The Child Funeral Fund is available regardless of the income of the claimant, but it is subject to following eligibility criteria:

- The child had not reached their 18th birthday at the time of their death; or
- The child was stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy.
- The burial or cremation takes place anywhere within the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland following a service or ceremony in Northern Ireland
- The claim is made within 6 months of the date of funeral.
- You have taken responsibility for the funeral expenses.

There is no entitlement to the Child Funeral Fund if you have already received a payment from any other Government funeral expenses or bereavement schemes. The Child Funeral Fund will not affect any benefits you currently receive. The Child Funeral Fund is not taxable and will not be included as income for tax credit purposes.