

Funeral payment expenses update

Spring 2019



This update is taken from the presentation by Angela Kidd, DWP Social Fund Policy Lead at SAIF's 2019 AGM Weekend.

The Children's Funeral Fund for England will be implemented in the summer of 2019. It will meet the essential costs of burying or cremating a child.

Funeral Expenses Payment can help to pay for:

- burial fees
- cremation fees, including the cost of the medical certificates
- travel to arrange or go to the funeral for the responsible person
- the cost of moving the body within the UK, if it's being moved more than 50 miles
- death certificates or other documents
- Claimants can also get up to £700 for any other funeral expenses, such as funeral director's fees, flowers or the coffin.

The payment will not usually cover all of the costs of the funeral:

- How much an individual gets depends on their 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.
- Reasonable travel distance for the burial or cremation is calculated using the distance from the location where the deceased person's body is being kept to the burial or cremation location
- Where the deceased is buried, DWP pays the necessary costs of purchasing a new burial plot for the deceased, together with an exclusive right of burial in that plot.

Policy for where a crematorium offers two types of service (e.g. 45 minutes £915 or 30 minutes £600):

- The necessary cost component of the Funeral Expenses Payments scheme does not pay for the cost of memorial services, however, they can be claimed for under the other costs component. The cost of the cremation itself is covered as a necessary cost.

Funeral expenses payments eligibility

An individual can get a Funeral Expenses Payment if:

- they get certain benefits or tax credits
- they meet the rules on their relationship with the deceased
- they are arranging a funeral in the UK, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland

The responsible person or their partner must be on one of the following:

- 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
- Universal Credit.
- They may also be eligible if getting a Support for Mortgage Interest loan.

The claimant's relationship with the deceased

Claimants must be one of the following:

- the partner of the deceased when they died
- a close relative or close friend of the deceased
- 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)

The claimant may not get a Funeral Expenses Payment if another close relative (such as a sibling or parent) is not getting one of the qualifying benefits.