Funeral Support Payment

HELP WITH FUNERAL COSTS
What is a Funeral Support Payment?

A Funeral Support Payment is a one-off payment from Social Security Scotland that can help if you are responsible for arranging and paying for the funeral of someone close to you, you live in Scotland and you receive a qualifying means-tested benefit.

A simple burial in Scotland costs around £4,000 and a simple cremation around £3,000, but almost half of people who die have not put aside enough money to cover their own funeral.
Who can claim?
To be eligible for a Funeral Support Payment:
- you must normally live in Scotland
- you or your partner must be receiving a qualifying benefit such as Pension Credit
- the person who has died must have normally lived in the UK
- the funeral must usually take place in the UK
- it must be reasonable for you to accept responsibility for paying for the funeral

The closest family member of the person who has died will normally be expected to take responsibility for paying for the funeral. However, Social Security Scotland will take into consideration difficult circumstances such as family breakdown.

What are the qualifying benefits?
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit (if the award includes a disabled worker or severe disability element)

If you were receiving Universal Credit in the last month, you may qualify even if it has now stopped, or if deductions or sanctions meant you did not actually receive a payment.
When should I claim?
You can make a claim from the day the person died to six months after the date of the funeral.

How do I claim?
To make a claim for a Funeral Support Payment, contact Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

If your hearing is impaired and you use a textphone, you can use their Text Relay Service by dialling 18001+ 0300 244 4000.

If you are a British Sign Language user, you can also call them via contactScotland-BSL, a Scottish Government BSL Video Relay Service. For more information visit their website contactscotland-bsl.org.

How quickly will I receive a payment?
Social Security Scotland aim to process all applications within 10 working days and make the payment to you as soon as possible.
What does Funeral Support Payment cover?

**Burial or cremation costs**

These include the costs of gravedigging, the removal of a pacemaker, any medical references and certificates that are needed in order for the funeral to go ahead and any documents required to release the assets (money and property) of the person who has died.

**Certain transport costs**

The transport costs which can be covered are:

- one return journey to arrange or attend the funeral and the cost of travel, not including the first 80 kilometres (50 miles), which is:
  - to transport the body to a funeral director’s premises or place of rest
  - to transport the coffin and bearers, plus one additional vehicle, from the funeral director’s premises or place of rest to the funeral
  - the return journey after the above

**Other expenses**

A flat-rate payment, currently £1,000, towards other expenditure such as a coffin, flowers and funeral director fees.

If the person who has died was over 18 and had a pre-paid funeral plan, this payment will be £120.
Will there be any deductions from my Funeral Support Payment?

Deductions can be made from the amount you receive if the person who died was over the age of 18 and other sources of money are available to assist with the cost of the funeral. For example:

- money from the estate that can be obtained without confirmation being granted, that is therefore available to help cover the cost of the funeral
- a pre-paid funeral plan or other policy covering funeral expenses
- a Funeral Expenses Payment paid by the Department for Work and Pensions
- a government funeral grant paid to someone who was receiving a War Disablement Pension

Contributions from family members and charitable organisations will not reduce the amount of Funeral Support Payment you receive.
What if I am unhappy about a Funeral Support Payment decision?

If you are unhappy with a decision made by Social Security Scotland about your Funeral Support Payment claim, you can ask them to look at it again. This is called a redetermination. You can ask for a redetermination by post or phone within 31 days of the decision. You can send in any new evidence you did not send before and explain why you think the decision is wrong.

You can contact Social Security Scotland at:

Social Security Scotland
PO Box 10301
Dundee DD1 9FY

Tel: **0800 182 2222**

Online: [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/contact-us](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/contact-us)

How can I find out more?

If you would like further information about Funeral Support Payments, or to find out if you could be eligible, call the Age Scotland helpline on **0800 12 44 222**.

You can read more about Funeral Support Payments on the Scottish Government website: [www.mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment/how-to-apply](http://www.mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment/how-to-apply)