

March 2023



Funeral Support Payment

HELP WITH
FUNERAL COSTS



Who we are

Age Scotland is the national charity for older people. We work to improve the lives of everyone over the age of 50 so that they can love later life.

Our vision is a Scotland which is the best place in the world to grow older.

Our mission is to inspire, involve and empower older people in Scotland, and influence others, so that people can make the most of later life.

Our three strategic aims are to:



Help older people to be as well as they can be



Promote a positive view of ageing and later life



Tackle loneliness and isolation

How we can help

We know that growing older doesn't come with a manual. Later life can bring changes and opportunities to your life and you may need to know about rights, organisations and services which are unfamiliar to you.

That's why we provide free information and advice to help you on a range of topics including benefits and entitlements, social care, legal issues such as Power of Attorney, housing and much more. All of our guides are available to download for free from our website, or you can contact our helpline team to have copies posted to you for free.

The Age Scotland **helpline** is a free, confidential phone service for older people, their carers and families in Scotland looking for information and advice.

Later life can bring times when you just need someone to talk to. Our **friendship line** is part of our wider helpline and older people can call us for a chat. We're here to listen, provide friendship and offer support.

For information, advice and friendship



Call us free on: 0800 12 44 222
(Monday – Friday, 9am - 5pm)



Visit agescotland.org.uk to find out more.



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 like Pension Credit.

If you are not sure whether you qualify for a means-tested benefit call the Age Scotland helpline on **0800 12 44 222** for advice.

A burial in Scotland costs around £4,000 and a 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 of £1178.75 (2023/2024) 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 £143.85 (2023/2024).



Will I get the full amount?

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
- a pre-paid funeral plan or other policy covering funeral expenses
- 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**

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

How you can help

Our vision is a Scotland which is the best place in the world to grow older.

All the information and advice we provide is free and completely impartial and in helping people access their rights and entitlements, it can be life changing.

We are an ageing population and more people than ever are coming to us for support. You can help us be there for those that need us most.



Make a donation

No matter how small or large, donations make a massive difference and help us continue our important work.

- Call **03330 15 14 60**
- Visit **age.scot/donate**
- Text **LATERLIFE** to **70085** to donate £5.*



Fundraise

Whether it is having a bake sale, running a marathon or knitting small hats for the Big Knit, there are so many ways to raise vital funds to support our work. To find out more, call **0333 323 2400** or visit **age.scot/fundraise**.



Leave us a gift in your Will

By choosing to leave us a gift in your Will, you can help Age Scotland to continue being there for vulnerable older people in the years to come. To find out more, call **0333 323 2400** or visit **age.scot/legacy**.

* Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

Let's keep in touch



Sign up to our newsletter

Our regular newsletters by email contain details of our campaigns, services and how you can support our work.

Sign up today by visiting **age.scot/roundup**



Follow us on social media

Our social media channels are a great way to keep up to date with our work and issues that affect older people.



[/agescotland](https://www.facebook.com/agescotland)



[@AgeScotland](https://twitter.com/AgeScotland)



[@age_scotland](https://www.instagram.com/age_scotland)



[/AgeScotland](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AgeScotland)

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Contact us:

Head office

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Age Scotland helpline

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Email

info@agescotland.org.uk

Visit our website

www.agescotland.org.uk

Follow us on social media:



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