



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 on certain benefits or tax credits, and need support to meet the costs of a funeral.

Who can get it?

Your client 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. If they could not apply within the 6 months of the funeral taking place due to the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID 19), we'll accept your application as on time
- 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 two 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 client will receive will depend on what they have claimed and what funds were left by the person who died.



Social Security Scotland

Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

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 - £1,070.60 for the majority of applications and £130.65 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?

One person per funeral.

How do you apply?

Call freephone on 0800 182 2222 to complete the application over the phone or to request a paper application form. Or go to mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment.

Before applying for Funeral Support Payment, your client 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 two 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?

Your client 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. Your client 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 client need to pay this money back?

No, it's not a loan and doesn't need to be repaid by the client. 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 client's chosen financial account or direct to the funeral director (this is usually the client's preferred choice but we will need the client's permission to do this).

When can people apply?

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