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Qualifying conditions for our schemes change from time to time. Always check with your local Social Welfare Office or with Information Services to see if qualifying conditions have changed (see page 10 for contact details).

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication. This booklet is intended as a guide only, and is not a legal interpretation.



## 1. What is Child Benefit?

Child Benefit is a monthly payment for each qualified child normally living with you and being supported by you. A qualified child is:

- a child under age 16,  
**or**
- a child aged 16 or 17 who:
  - is in full-time education, or
  - attends a FÁS Youthreach course, or
  - is physically or mentally disabled, and
  - depends on you.

**Child Benefit stops when your child reaches age 18.**

## 2. Who can claim Child Benefit?

Child Benefit is normally paid to the child's mother or step-mother. If the child does not live with their mother or step-mother but lives with their father or step-father, Child Benefit may be paid to them.

If the child is not living with or being maintained by their parents, the person caring for the child may get Child Benefit.

### **Note**

**To qualify for Child Benefit you must satisfy the Habitual Residence Condition. This condition took effect from 1 May 2004 and affects all applicants regardless of nationality. For more information, log on to [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).**

### 3. When and how do I apply?

You should apply for Child Benefit within **12 months of:**

- the month in which your child was born, or
- the month the child became a member of your family, or
- the month your family came to live in the Republic of Ireland.

You can get Child Benefit from the first day of the month after the child is born, becomes a member of your family or your family begins living in the Republic of Ireland.

#### **Note**

**If you do not apply in time, you will usually get Child Benefit from the first day of the month after we get your application.**

Since early 2005, the birth details of all children born in the Republic of Ireland are stored in a central database. Child Benefit Section, which is part of the Department of Social Protection, has access to the central database and can automatically start your application for Child Benefit for you.

To register your child's birth in this database, you should give the hospital and Registrar of Births your:

- Personal Public Service Number (PPS),
- date of birth,
- full name,
- address, and
- mother's birth surname.

If you do not have a PPS Number, you should contact your local social welfare office. They will let you know the designated office of this Department in your area which can issue you with a PPS Number.

You will find contact details for your local social welfare office in the State Directory section of your phone book or the golden pages. For more information, log on to **[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**.

If you have given the necessary information about yourself and your child, we will contact you within 10 working days of the registration of your child's birth.

If you do not provide all this information, your Child Benefit may be delayed or we may not be able to process your application automatically.

If you do not hear from us within 10 working days following the registration of your child's birth, you can contact us on LoCall: 1890 400 400 (from the Republic of Ireland only) or +353 74 91 64496 (from Northern Ireland or overseas).

### **Note**

**The rates charged for the use of 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.**

### **My new baby is my first child**

We will send you a partly completed application form for Child Benefit. Please fill this in, making sure that your and your child's personal details are correct, and return it to us. We will contact you when we have processed your application.

### **I have other children and already receive Child Benefit**

If your surname is the same on both our records and those held by the Registrar of Births, we will automatically include the increase for your new child with your existing Child Benefit payment.

We will send you a letter telling you when the increase in your payment will start. There is no need to contact us, unless you want us to change your personal details or your method of payment.

If your surname is not the same on both our records and those held by the Registrar of Births, we will send you an application form to fill in.

You should return the form with written evidence of your current surname, such as your marriage certificate, civil partnership registration certificate or a civil union registration certificate if marriage or civil partnership is the reason for your name change, or other evidence such as a bill.

#### **Note**

**If your child was born outside the Republic of Ireland or you did not register the birth under the new system, you should fill in and return form CB1 with your child's birth certificate. You can get form CB1 online at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie), from your local Social Welfare Office or post office.**

## **4. What happens if I have a multiple birth?**

You can get a special grant of €635 for a multiple birth, and further grants of €635 when your children reach age 4 and 12.

This means:

- €635 at birth
- €635 at age 4, and
- €635 at age 12.

These payments issue automatically, you do not need to apply for them.

### Rate of Payment

If you have twins you get one and a half times the normal monthly rate for each child. If you have three or more children, Child Benefit is paid at double the normal monthly rate for each child, provided at least three of the children remain qualified.

## 5. How do I get my payment?

You get Child Benefit on the first Tuesday of every month, either:

- at your local post office by Social Services Card,
- or**
- by **direct payment** into your current, deposit or savings account in a financial institution or an An Post Childcare Savings Account in:
  - your own name, or
  - the name of:
    - you and your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant, or
    - you and your child(ren), or
    - your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant and your child(ren), or
    - your child(ren) only, or
    - your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant only.

## 6. How long does payment last?

Child Benefit is paid for all children under age 16. However, you can receive Child Benefit for a child aged 16 or 17 if they are in full-time education or are physically or mentally disabled.

We will send you a partly completed application form 1 month before your child's 16th birthday and, if your child is still in full time education, 1 month before the end of the academic year (while your child is under 18) so that you can continue to get Child Benefit.

When you receive the claim form, fill it in and have it certified by:

- the child's school or college, if they are in full-time education, or
- FÁS, if the child is attending a full-time Youthreach course, or
- a registered doctor, if the child is physically or mentally disabled.

### Note

#### You must tell us immediately if:

- **the child leaves full-time education or training before the certified date, or**
- **the child was physically or mentally disabled and is now able to support themselves before reaching age 18 or, the date certified by a doctor.**

If you do not receive a claim form automatically, form **CB2** is available on the internet at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie), from your local Social Welfare Office or post office.

## 7. Do EU rules affect Child Benefit?

If you work in a country covered by EC Regulations, this country usually pays Child Benefit even if your family is living in another EU or EEA country. Contact **Child Benefit EU Section** on (074) 910 6528 for more information on how EU rules affect Child Benefit.

### Countries covered by EC Regulations:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Cyprus (Cyprus South)
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- the Netherlands
- the United Kingdom

## 8. Information on Homemaker's Scheme

If you give up work to take care of a child under age 12 or an ill or disabled adult or child aged 12 or over you may not have the same number of social insurance contributions as you might if you had worked outside the home. We may ignore the years spent caring when we work out how you qualify for State Pension (Contributory). For more information, log on to **[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**.

**If you are getting Child Benefit, there is no need to register as a homemaker.**

## 9. Where can I get more information?

For more information about Child Benefit, contact your local Social Welfare Office or:

### **Child Benefit Section**

Social Welfare Services  
St Oliver Plunkett Road  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal.

LoCall: 1890 400 400 (from the Republic of Ireland only) or +353 74 91 64496 (from Northern Ireland or overseas).

For information booklets, application forms and more information on social welfare services:

- Log on to **www.welfare.ie**.
- Text to **51909** (see details on Page 11).
- LoCall Information Line at **1890 66 22 44** (from the Republic of Ireland only) or **+353 71 91 93313** (from Northern Ireland or overseas).
- Drop in to your local Social Welfare Office or Citizens Information Centre.

### **Note**

**The rates charged for using 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.**

To request forms, text the form code followed by your name and address to 51909 (from the Republic of Ireland only). Standard text rates apply.

For example, if you wanted to request the Bereavement Grant form, text FORM BG MARY MURPHY 1 NEW STREET, OLD TOWN, CO. DONEGAL.

<b>Social welfare payment or scheme</b>	<b>Form code</b>
<b>Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance</b>	<b>FORM BTSCFA</b>
<b>Bereavement Grant</b>	<b>FORM BG</b>
<b>Carer's Allowance</b>	<b>FORM CARA</b>
<b>Carer's Benefit</b>	<b>FORM CARB</b>
<b>Child Benefit (Form CB1)</b>	<b>FORM CHILD</b>
<b>Disability Allowance</b>	<b>FORM DA</b>
<b>Domiciliary Care Allowance</b>	<b>FORM DCA</b>
<b>Family Income Supplement</b>	<b>FORM FIS</b>
<b>Free Travel</b>	<b>FORM TRAVEL</b>
<b>Fuel Allowance</b>	<b>FORM FUEL</b>
<b>Household Benefits</b>	<b>FORM HHB</b>
<b>Invalidity Pension</b>	<b>FORM INV</b>
<b>Living Alone Increase</b>	<b>FORM LAA</b>
<b>Maternity Benefit</b>	<b>FORM MAT</b>
<b>One Parent Family Payment</b>	<b>FORM OPFP</b>
<b>Respite Care Grant</b>	<b>FORM RCG</b>
<b>State Pension (Non-Contributory)</b>	<b>FORM SPNC</b>
<b>State Pension (Transition/Contributory)</b>	<b>FORM SPC</b>
<b>Widow(er)'s/Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension</b>	<b>FORM WCP</b>
<b>Widow(er)'s/Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension</b>	<b>FORM WNCP</b>

# Citizens Information

The Citizens Information Board is the statutory body which supports the provision of information, advice and advocacy on the broad range of social and civil services to the public. It provides the Citizens Information website and supports the voluntary network of Citizens Information Services and the Citizens Information Phone Service.

[www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

Lo-Call 1890 777 121 (Mon-Fri 9am-9pm)

Local Centres (see Golden Pages)

Citizen Information is available from over 250 locations nationwide. The contact details and opening hours of your nearest Citizens Information Centre are listed in the Golden Pages.