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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 12 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 a Bereavement Grant?

A Bereavement Grant is a payment based on PRSI contributions. It is paid on the death of:

- an insured person,
- the spouse, civil partner or cohabitant of an insured person,
- the widow, widower or surviving civil partner of an insured person,
- a child under age 18 (where either parent or the person that the child normally lived with, satisfies the Social Insurance contribution conditions),
- a child under age 22, if in full-time education (where either parent or the person that the child normally lived with, satisfies the Social Insurance contribution conditions),
- a child aged between 16 and 22 and in receipt of Disability Allowance (where either parent or the person that the child normally lived with, satisfies the Social Insurance contribution conditions),
- a contributory pensioner,
- the spouse, civil partner or cohabitant of a contributory pensioner,
- the qualified adult of a contributory pensioner,
- a qualified child, or
- an orphan getting Guardian's Payment (Contributory) or on the death of their guardian.

Note

You must complete application form BG 1. Payment of a Bereavement Grant is subject to meeting the social insurance conditions as outlined in this booklet.

If a person dies as a result of an accident at work, or a prescribed occupational disease, or if they were getting Disablement Pension assessed at 50% or more at the time of their death, you may get a Funeral Grant which is the same rate as the Bereavement Grant.

For more information, log on to www.welfare.ie.

2. When is a Bereavement Grant paid?

A Bereavement Grant is paid:

- on the death of a person who satisfies the social insurance contributions conditions or on the death of their spouse, civil partner, cohabitant or qualified dependants,
- or**
- on the death of a person who has been getting a Contributory Pension or on the death of their spouse, civil partner, cohabitant or qualified dependants,
- or**
- on the death of a person who has been getting Guardian's Payment (Contributory) or on the death of their guardian.

3. What are the PRSI contribution conditions?

The social insurance conditions to qualify are that the person on whose social insurance record the application is being made (the insured person), must have:

- paid 156 social insurance contributions since they began insurable employment,

or

- paid 26 social insurance contributions since they began insurable employment,

and either

- 39 weeks social insurance paid or credited in the 2nd last complete tax year before the beginning of the benefit year in which the relevant date occurs (i.e. if the death occurs in 2011, the relevant year is 2009),

or

- a yearly average of 39 weeks social insurance paid or credited in the 3 or 5 complete tax years immediately before the last complete tax year before the beginning of the benefit year in which the relevant date occurs (i.e. if the death occurs in 2011, the relevant years are 2007-2009 or 2005-2009),

or

- a yearly average of 26 weeks social insurance paid or credited since 6/4/1979 (or since starting work if later) and the end of the last complete tax year before the beginning of the benefit year in which the relevant date occurs (i.e. if the death occurs in 2011, the relevant years are up to 2010),

or

- a yearly average of 26 weeks social insurance paid or credited since 1/10/1979 (or since starting work if later) and the end of the last complete tax year before the beginning of the benefit year in which the relevant date occurs (i.e. if the death occurs in 2011, the relevant years are up to 2010).

Social Insurance contributions at PRSI Classes A, B, C, D, E, H, S and Voluntary contributions are counted for Bereavement Grant qualifying purposes.

4. Does social insurance outside Ireland count?

If the person on whose insurance record the Bereavement Grant is based, has insufficient Irish contributions alone to qualify for the grant, contributions can be added that were paid in a country covered by EC Regulations or that has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement with Ireland, provided that this insured person has paid at least 1 week's reckonable social insurance after returning to Ireland and before the date of death.

You should give details on the application form of any employment or periods of residence in the countries listed below. We will send the relevant papers, on your behalf, to the authorities in the country or countries concerned.

The countries covered by either EC Regulations or under a Bilateral Agreement are:

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Channel Islands
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Cyprus (Cyprus South)
- Republic of Korea
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- the Netherlands
- the United Kingdom
- the United States of America

5. How much is the Bereavement Grant?

Bereavement Grant is a once-off payment of €850 for deaths which occur on or after 6 December 2006.

6. How do I get my payment?

Payment will be made where possible direct to an account in a financial institution of the person responsible for paying the funeral bill. In cases where this is not possible a cheque will issue.

7. When and how do I apply?

You should complete the application form **BG 1** within 12 months of the date of death. If you do not apply in time you may lose the payment.

If the deceased person was getting one of the payments listed across

OR

was a qualified adult or child of a person who is getting one of the payments listed across

- **State Pension (Contributory)**
- **State Pension (Transition)**
- **State Pension (Non-Contributory)**
- **Blind Pension**
- **Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension**
- **Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension**
- **Deserted Wife's Benefit**
- **Deserted Wife's Allowance**
- **Guardian's Payment (Contributory)**
- **Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)**

**Please send the application form to:
Social Welfare Services
College Road
Sligo**

**LoCall:1890 500 000 (from the Republic of Ireland only)
Telephone: +353 71 9157100 (from Northern Ireland or overseas)**

All other Bereavement Grant applications should be sent to:

Bereavement Grant Section

Social Welfare Services
Government Buildings
Ballinalee Road
Longford

LoCall: 1890 927 770 (from the Republic of Ireland only)
Telephone: +353 43 3340000 (from Northern Ireland or overseas)

What documentation do I need to supply with my application:

1. Proof of death: A Death certificate, a Coroner's Certificate, an Interim Coroner's Certificate, a letter from a doctor or a death notice clipping from a newspaper.
2. Proof of responsibility for the Funeral Bill: A funeral bill or a receipt in the applicant's name. A funeral bill addressed to the Representatives of the Deceased is not sufficient. If someone other than the applicant is named on the funeral bill or a receipt, written permission from this person will be required from the applicant.

We do not accept photocopies of certificates and other documents.

Please note that we may need extra information in certain cases. If the deceased or their spouse, civil partner or cohabitant is/was a retired Public Servant, it may expedite the claim by including a pension slip.

Personal Public Service Number (PPS No.)

If you are applying for a Bereavement Grant for a spouse, partner or child, you must supply your own PPS No. and also the deceased person's PPS No. If you do not know these numbers, please contact your local Social Welfare Office. They will let you know your PPS numbers. If you do not have one they will let you know what you have to do to get one.

For more information, log on to **www.welfare.ie**.

8. Other Payments to Widows, Widowers or Surviving Civil Partners

If you are widow, widower or surviving civil partner, you may be entitled to further payments from this department such as:

Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension which is paid on the death of a spouse or civil partner. This pension is based on either your own or your late spouse's or civil partner's social insurance contributions. It's not means tested and is payable for as long as you remain a widow, widower or surviving civil partner.

Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension which is a means tested payment for widow's, widower's or surviving civil partner's under age 66 whose income is below a certain limit and who do not satisfy the qualifying contribution conditions for a Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension.

Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant which is a payment that is made to widows, widowers and surviving civil partners with at least one qualified child who were widowed or are a surviving civil partner on or after 1 December 1999.

If the cause of the death is as a result of a work-related accident or a prescribed occupational disease, the widow, widower or surviving civil partner may have an entitlement to Death Benefit under the Occupational Injuries Scheme.

If the deceased was in receipt of a Disablement Pension assessed at 50% or higher, the widow, widower or surviving civil partner may have an automatic entitlement to Death Benefit Pension. Death Benefit Pension is payable at a higher rate than Widow's/Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension.

For more information, log on to **www.welfare.ie**.

9. Registering a death

To obtain a death certificate the death must be registered. When registering a death you will need the deceased person's PPS No. If you do not have their PPS No. contact your local Social Welfare Office. Further information on registering a death is available on the internet at:

www.groireland.ie/registering_a_death.htm

You can get a death certificate from the Superintendent of Births, Deaths and Marriages (in your area) or from:

General Register Office
Government Offices
Convent Road
Roscommon

LoCall: 1890 252 076 (from the Republic of Ireland only)

Telephone: + 353 90 66 32900 (from Northern Ireland or overseas)

Note

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

10. Where can I get more information?

For more information on the **Bereavement Grant**, contact your local Social Welfare Office or **Bereavement Grant Section** at the following address:

Bereavement Grant Section

Social Welfare Services
Government Buildings
Ballinalee Road
Longford

LoCall: 1890 927 770 (from the Republic of Ireland only)
Telephone: +353 43 3340000 (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 13).
- 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.

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

Other useful booklets:

Death Benefit	SW 32
Free Travel	SW 40
Fuel - National Fuel Scheme	SW 17
Household Benefits Package	SW 107
Living Alone Increase	SW 36
One Parent Family Payment	SW 82
State Pension (Non-Contributory)	SW 116
State Pension (Transition) and State Pension (Contributory)	SW 118
Supplementary Welfare Allowance	SW 54
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	SW 114
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension	SW 25
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension	SW 26

**Books available from Citizens Information Board @
www.citizensinformation.ie**

**Bereavement - Information for those affected by
bereavement**

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

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.