

Illness Benefit Late Claims

Late applications for Illness Benefit

Claims for **Illness Benefit** must be made within **7 days** of the start of your illness or incapacity.

Should you wish to claim Illness Benefit outside of this time limit, your payment may be backdated if you have a **good cause** for the delay. However, your payment cannot be backdated beyond **6 months**, except in two exceptional circumstances.

These are:

Situation 1

You did not apply because of information supplied to you or someone acting for you by staff of the Department of Social Protection.

What you must do

You must give full and specific details of the information you received, including the name of the officer who supplied the information (if known), the location of the office and the date the information was supplied.

Situation 2

You failed to claim on time because you were so ill that you could not apply or instruct another person to apply for you.

What you must do

You must supply specific medical evidence from your doctor that emphasises why the illness or incapacity prevented you from applying yourself or appointing someone to apply for you.

If you think that either of these situations apply to you, please write to us with evidence to support your application.

All late applications must be accompanied by medical evidence as follows:

- A **First Certificate (MC 1)** stating the date your illness began.
- A **letter from your doctor** confirming that you have been attending on a regular basis. The letter should give details of date/frequency of visits and the reason why certificates were not issued at the time of the visits. The letter should also state whether you have been ill and incapable of work since the illness began. If you attended hospital as an out-patient the dates of attendance should be stated. If you were an in-patient the dates of admission and discharge should be stated.
- A **current certificate (MC 2)**.

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information on Illness Benefit on **www.welfare.ie** and using the secure **online enquiry form** or by telephoning:

Telephone: **(01) 704 3300**

LoCall: **1890 928 400**

If calling from outside the Republic of Ireland please call **+353 1 704 3300**.

Note

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

This leaflet is intended as a guide only and is not a legal interpretation.

For more information:

- Log on to **www.welfare.ie**.
- Telephone: **(071) 919 3302**
LoCall: **1890 66 22 44**
If you are calling from outside the Republic of Ireland please call + 353 71 91 93302.
- Drop in to your local Citizens Information Centre, your local Intreo Centre or your local Social Welfare Office.