



# MESOTHELIOMA UK

Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

## Bereavement Benefits Factsheet

June 2017

### Bereavement Support Payment

This is a new tax free benefit available to people whose spouse or civil partner dies on or after 6.4.17. It replaces 3 existing bereavement benefits: bereavement payment, bereavement allowance and widowed parent's allowance. These payments remain in place if your spouse or civil partner died before 6.4.17. For details on these benefits please contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser (see below).

### How do you qualify for the Bereavement Support Payment?

You will be able to claim if the following apply:

- You were ordinarily resident in Great Britain when you spouse or civil partner died
- You were under state pension age when you spouse or civil partner died
- Your late spouse or civil partner had paid sufficient national insurance contributions unless it has been established that the mesothelioma had been contracted through his/her job.

### How much do you receive?

Bereavement support payment consists of 2 components: an initial larger payment (lump sum) followed by up to 18 monthly instalments. Each is set at a **standard rate** and a **higher rate**. You qualify for the **higher rate** if:

- You were pregnant when your spouse or civil partner died
- You were entitled to child benefit when your spouse or civil partner died **OR**
- You became entitled to child benefit after your spouse or civil partner died – for a child or qualifying young person who was living with you or your late spouse or civil partner immediately before the death.

The **standard rate** is payable in all other cases.

The **standard rate** of the initial payment is £2,500 followed by monthly instalments of £100. The **higher rate** of the initial payment is £3,500 followed by monthly instalments of £350.

### Can you receive other benefits alongside the Bereavement Support Payment?

Yes. The monthly payments are disregarded as income, are not classed as an “overlapping benefit” and are not taken into account when calculating the benefit cap. However, the initial payment is treated as capital for means-tested benefits but can be disregarded for up to 52 weeks from the date of payment.

**How do you claim?**

To claim Bereavement Support Payment, ring the Department for Work and Pensions Bereavement Service (**0345 606 0265**). You should claim Bereavement Support Payment as soon as you can. To get the initial payment you must claim within 12 months of your spouse or civil partner's death. The monthly instalments can be paid for up to 18 months following your spouse or civil partner's death; the first instalment can be made one month after their death. The 18-month period cannot be extended if you delay claiming; it can, however, be backdated for up to 3 months (though no further back than the date of your spouse or civil partner's death).

**Further help**

For help to check benefit entitlement, assistance with form filling or to discuss any problems with benefit/compensation applications please contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser on 0800 169 2409 or email [info@mesothelioma.uk.com](mailto:info@mesothelioma.uk.com) Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group or your local Citizens Advice office.