



MESOTHELIOMA UK

Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

Funeral Payments Factsheet

August 2019

Do you need help with paying for a funeral?

It may be possible to get financial help to cover the costs of a funeral. To be eligible you or your partner must accept responsibility for the costs of a funeral (i.e. you have paid or are liable to pay them) that takes place in the UK (or in another European Economic Area country if you or a family member are classified as a “worker” or have the right to reside in the UK). In addition you or your partner must be in receipt of one of the following “qualifying benefits” on the day you claim a funeral payment:

- Income support
- Pension credit
- Income-based jobseeker’s allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Child tax credit that includes a child element or disabled child element
- Working tax credit that includes the disabled worker element or severe disability element *or*
- Universal credit

Who can apply for a Funeral Payment?

To qualify you must fall into one of the following categories:

- You were the partner of the person who has died from mesothelioma. “Partner” includes opposite and same sex couples whether or not you were married or in a civil partnership.
- You were a close relative or close friend of the person who has died and it is reasonable for you to accept responsibility for the funeral costs, given the nature and extent of your contact with that person.

You cannot get a payment as a close relative or friend of the person who has died if:

- The person who has died had a partner *or*
- There is a parent, son or daughter of the person who has died who is not -
Getting a qualifying benefit (see above) *or*
 - In prison or hospital immediately following a period on a qualifying benefit *or* -
 - Aged under 18 *or*
 - Aged 18 or over and in full time education *or*
 - In a religious order *or*
 - An asylum seeker *or*
 - Ordinarily resident outside the UK *or*
- There is another relative who was in closer contact or had equally close contact and is not getting a qualifying benefit.

Mesothelioma UK Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity Number, 1177039

Unit 116, Greenacres, The Sidings, Leicester LE43BR

Freephone: 0800 169 2409 o email info@mesothelioma.uk.com

www.mesothelioma.uk.com



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How much will you receive?

You will receive reasonable and necessary costs of the funeral and its arrangement and up to £700 for any other reasonable expenses associated with the funeral. The DWP can recover the funeral payment from the deceased's estate.

How and when to claim

You will need to obtain form SF200 from your local Jobcentre Plus Office. Alternatively, you can request a form from the Department for Work and Pensions Bereavement Service **(0800 7310469 Option 2)**.

You should claim within 6 months of the date of the funeral. However, there is some flexibility on this time limit if at the time of the funeral you were not in receipt of one of the benefits mentioned above. If you are waiting for a decision on a qualifying benefit, claim within the time limit and if the claim is refused because you are not getting a qualifying benefit then you can reapply within three months of being awarded the qualifying benefit.

Scotland

If you live in Scotland, funeral payments are due to be replaced by a new 'funeral expense assistance'. For details please contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser (see below) or search www.gov.scot

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. Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group or your local Citizens Advice office