



Funeral Payment Factsheet

May 2010

Do you need help with paying for the funeral?

It may be possible to get a **Funeral Expenses Payment**

To be eligible you will need to:

- Have been awarded one of the following:
 - Income Support**
 - Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance**
 - Child Tax Credit** of a minimum amount. You will need to seek advice on whether you are receiving the correct amount (contact details below).
 - Working Tax Credit** which includes an amount that covers a disability. You will need to seek advice on whether you are receiving the correct amount (contact details below).
 - Housing Benefit**
 - Council Tax Benefit**
 - Income Related Employment & Support Allowance**
- Arrange for the funeral to take place in the UK. There are some exceptions to this rule and some funerals will be able to take place in any EEA State. You will need to seek advice on this (contact details below).

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 of Mesothelioma. You do not have to have been married.
- You were a close relative or close friend of the person who has died and you had a reasonable amount of contact with the person. This does not mean that you had to have been the person's carer.

The question of whether the amount of contact you had was reasonable in the circumstances is considered with reference to a large number of factors which may include your state of health, the amount of travel involved in relation to the circumstances of other relatives and close friends.

Close relatives/friends will be excluded in the following the circumstances:

- The person who has died had a partner
- There is a parent, son or daughter of the person who has died unless he/she is under age 18
 - A full time student
 - In a religious order
 - In hospital
 - An asylum seeker
- There is another relative who was in closer contact

The amount of payment you will receive

You will receive all the necessary costs of the funeral and its arrangement and up to £700 for any other reasonable funeral expenses.

How to Claim and Time Limits for claiming

You will need to obtain form SF200 from your local Jobcentre Plus Office. Alternatively, you can request a form from the Benefit Enquiry Line **0800 88 22 00**.

You should claim within 3 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 or there is another reason for the lateness. 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.

What to do if you are unhappy with the decision?

If you are not satisfied with the decision you can appeal to ***an Independent Appeal Tribunal***.

You need to write a letter within one month of date of the letter containing the decision. You can appeal outside this time limit up to 13 months after the date of decision but you need to have special reasons for appealing late.

For help to check exactly which benefits you are able to claim, help to fill in the necessary forms or to discuss any problems you have with your benefits call:

Macmillan Benefits Helpline on freephone 0808 808 0000
Mon – Fri 9am – 8pm

Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group, your local Citizens' Advice Bureau or a local specialist nurse for advice and assistance.