



## **Financial Advice for Bereaved Parents**

### **If your baby has died shortly after birth**

If your baby has died shortly after birth, many bereaved families may face financial strain on top of their grief. It's important to know what you're entitled to and who to talk to.

### **What benefits and entitlements could you claim?**

If your baby dies within four weeks of being born, you're entitled to much the same financial help as other families who have had a new baby.

You will need to tell a few key people what's happened. The best way to do this is usually to phone or, where possible, email. If you don't feel able to phone, you may be able to get a relative or close friend to make some of the calls for you.

### **Maternity pay and leave**

You're entitled to a total of 52 weeks leave. You can't get this if you have a child through surrogacy, but you may be able to take unpaid parental leave.

You may be eligible for Statutory Maternity Pay while you're off work for a maximum of 39 weeks (providing you've been working for long enough). You must make your claim within 28 days of your baby's death.

Talk to your employer about what they can offer you or check your contract of employment. Most employers offer compassionate leave to bereaved parents as part of their basic contract of employment or employee benefits.

### **Maternity Allowance**

If you're self-employed or haven't been with your employer for long enough to qualify for Statutory Maternity Pay, you may be eligible for Maternity Allowance.

This is paid by the government rather than your employer. If you can't get Maternity Allowance, you might be able to get Employment and Support Allowance.

To claim Maternity Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance, contact your [Jobcentre Plus](#) or, if you live in Northern Ireland, your [Jobs and Benefits Office](#).



## **Child Benefit**

You will get full Child Benefit for the period from the birth until eight weeks after your baby died.

If you've already made a claim for Child Benefit, you'll need to tell the [Child Benefit Office](#) (0300 200 3100) that your baby has died.

If you haven't made a claim yet, you must do so within three months of the birth of your baby to get the full amount.

Find out more about Child Benefit if a child dies on the [GOV.UK website](#)

## **Child Tax Credit**

You may also be able to claim tax credits until eight weeks after your baby died.

If you haven't made a claim, you should do so within one month.

If you're already receiving tax credits for your baby, you need to tell [the Tax Credits Office](#) (0345 300 3900) within one month of your loss.

Find out more about [Child Tax Credit](#)

## **Sure Start Maternity Grant**

If you're on a low income and receiving a qualifying benefit (like Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance), your right to claim a Sure Start Maternity Grant isn't affected.

You must claim the grant within 11 weeks of the baby's due date or within three months after the baby's birth.

To claim the Sure Start Maternity Grant:

- contact your [Jobcentre Plus](#) or [Jobs and Benefits Office](#)
- download a claim form on the [GOV.UK website](#) (PDF)
- **Other benefits and entitlements**
- You're entitled to free prescriptions and NHS dental treatment for at least 12 months.
- Ask your doctor or midwife for form FW8, which you fill in and they sign and send off for you. You'll receive your exemption certificate in the post.
- They can also help you with the [Healthy Start programme](#) if you've been claiming vouchers. You won't get any more vouchers but you can use any you've already received.
- Find out more about [Free prescriptions and NHS dental care in pregnancy](#)