

Questions asked ... *about DWP Payments*

The DWP provide financial support towards funeral payments
to those eligible through the Social Fund



Department
for Work &
Pensions



THE SEARSON FAMILY
FUNERAL SERVICE

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WHAT IS A FUNERAL FUND PAYMENT?

You could get help towards Funeral Expenses from the DWP if you receive certain benefits and need help to pay for a funeral. The Payment will be deducted from the deceased's estate, but not from a house or personal belongings left to a Widow, Widower, or surviving Civil Partner. Even if you meet the eligibility criteria, this doesn't mean you will receive a payment.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM?

Clearly outlining the eligibility criteria for Social Fund Payments ensures that the most qualified person makes the claim. As such, the person making the Social Fund Claim **MUST** also be the Funeral Client.

PARTNER:

A person living with the deceased as if they were married, including those married, civil partners, or living in the same care establishment immediately before moving in.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY:

Parent or child of the person who has died. including if they were adopted.

CLOSE RELATIVE:

Step-Parents and Step Parents-in-Law, Step and in Law-Children, Siblings, Siblings-in-Law, and Step Siblings-in-Law of the person who has died.

CLOSE FRIEND:

Person who was a friend of the deceased or relative not covered in previous groups, such as Grandchild, where the relationship's depth is more significant than its duration.

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If the person who died was living with a partner, the DWP will only consider an application from that partner, and only their benefits will be taken into account.

If they didn't live with a partner, the DWP will need information about other family members. However, there are some instances when they should ignore a family member's benefit status. This includes if they were estranged from the deceased (the relationship had broken down) or if they are under eighteen.

However, any 'Immediate Family Members' (i.e. Parent or Adult Child of the deceased) who don't fall into one of the already stated categories must also be on a qualifying benefit, no matter who applies. So must any 'Close Relatives' be at least as close to the deceased as the person applying.

WHAT ARE QUALIFYING BENEFITS?

To meet the eligibility criteria, you or your partner needs to receive one of the following income-related benefits:

Universal Credit

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Pension Credit

Housing Benefit

If your financial circumstances were connected to the deceased. In that case, your benefits may have been affected, and you may need to make a new application. Just call the DWP Bereavement Service on 0800 151 2012, or your Council if it is an application for Housing Benefit.

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WILL THE DWP COVER ALL COSTS?

NO ... The DWP may cover only a proportion of 'Essential' costs. There may be additional charges you will need to cover to settle the funeral account in full. In addition, even if you meet the applicable criteria to make a claim, this doesn't mean you will be awarded the full entitlement, or even a payment at all. As such, it is important to consider other funding means should the DWP fall short of your expected payment.

When considering the amount that the DWP will award you, the decision will be based on two parts:

REASONABLE COSTS:

Burial or Cremation fees

Doctors' Fees (in Northern Ireland)

Death Certificates to release money belonging to the deceased

One return journey to arrange or attend the funeral, not including the cost of a funeral car

In some circumstances, transport costs may be incurred if you need to move the person who passed away over fifty miles

FUNERAL DIRECTOR CONTRIBUTION:

Maximum of £1,000 toward other funeral expenses, generally those made by the Funeral Director. Payment may not cover the full costs charged by the Funeral Director; this may only be a potential contribution towards the cost of the funeral.

If the deceased had money in their estate, a Bank Account or Insurance Policy, this will be deducted from any award paid out.