

Benefits:

Death grants

no. 49

This leaflet tells you about the death grant which can be claimed to help with the cost of funeral expenses. It includes information on how to claim and frequently asked questions.



States of Guernsey
Social Security

If, after reading this leaflet, you still have unanswered questions, please contact us on **222506**.

This leaflet should be read with Leaflet 50, which contains all the current benefit payments and contribution rates, available from www.gov.gg/bereavementbenefits.

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This leaflet is for guidance and must not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law.

Contents

General	3
What is the death grant?	3
Who can claim death grant?	4
How much will I get?	4
What are the contribution conditions?	4
Claiming.....	5
How do I claim?	5
What information do I need to provide?	5
When should I claim?	5
How is the death grant paid?	6
How are claims decided?	6
Other Information	6
What if the person died in another country?.....	6
Can I claim other benefits following a death?.....	6
For further information	7
What to do if you have a complaint	8
How we collect and use information	12

General

What is the death grant?

The death grant is a one-off lump sum paid to help with the cost of funeral expenses.

Who can claim death grant?

The death grant is normally claimed by the Executor or Administrator of the Estate. If there is no Executor or Administrator, the grant can be claimed by the next of kin or any other person who has taken responsibility for the funeral expenses.

How much will I get?

The amount of the death grant depends on the contribution record of the person who has died. But for the death of a child, the grant can be based on the contribution record of a parent. The amounts payable are set out in Leaflet 50.

What are the contribution conditions?

There are two contribution conditions that must be met before a death grant can be paid. These are normally based on the contribution record of the person who has died.

At least 26 contributions that count towards benefit, must have been paid or credited since 7 June 1971; and

Either at least 45 contributions that count towards benefit must have been paid or credited between 1 January and 31 December in the year immediately prior to the date of death;
Or an average of at least 45 contributions that count towards benefit per year must have been paid or credited between 7 June 1971 and the last complete year (January to December) prior to the date of death.

If the first condition is met but the second condition is less than 45, you may be entitled to a reduced grant based on the average number of contributions paid or credited.

But, if the contribution average is less than 10, no grant will be payable.

Claiming

How do I claim?

To make a claim for the death grant you should fill in a claim form, which is available by phoning the Pensions & Allowances helpline on **222506**.

What information do I need to provide?

You will need to provide the following information when you make your claim:

- A. The death certificate (if the death happened off Island);
- B. Any voucher payments already issued by Social Security, which relate to the deceased and have not been cashed

When should I claim?

You should make your claim within 6 months of the date of death. If your claim is made after this time it will be treated as a late claim. This means that you may lose your entitlement.

How is the death grant paid?

The death grant is normally paid directly to the funeral home, who will then deduct the amount from the final invoice. If the funeral expenses have already been paid the grant will be given to the person who makes the claim.

How are claims decided?

In law, the Administrator of Social Security is responsible for deciding claims. You will be told of the decision in writing.

If you are not satisfied with the Administrator's decision, you may appeal to an independent Tribunal within 28 days. The Tribunal consists of an independent chairman and two other members.

Other Information

What if the person died in another country?

A death grant may still be payable if a person died while out of the Island. To find out more please call the Pensions & Allowances helpline on **222506**.

Can I claim other benefits following a death?

There are other benefits which may be payable:

- A. Bereavement payment** - This is a single lump sum which is paid if your husband or wife dies. It is based on the contribution record of the person who has died.

- B. Bereavement allowance** - This is a weekly allowance which is paid to people under pension age if their husband or wife dies. The allowance is payable for up to 52 weeks and is based on the contribution record of the person who has died.
- C. Widowed parent's allowance** - This is a weekly allowance paid to people under pension age - if they have a dependent child. It is based on the contribution record of the person who has died.
- D. Income support** - This is a weekly benefit which is paid if you are having difficulty managing on your income. Income support is a means-tested benefit. To find out more please call the supplementary benefit helpline on **222508**.

For more information about these benefits please visit the website or call our helpline.

Pensions & Allowances helpline - 222506
www.gov.gg/bereavementbenefits

Income Support helpline - 222508 www.gov.gg/incomesupport

For further information

If you are unsure of the meaning of any particular point in this leaflet, please contact Social Security, or the Alderney States Office, where staff will be pleased to help you, and from where copies of other leaflets may be obtained.

More information is also available on the States website here:
www.gov.gg/bereavementbenefits

If you are a parent or carer of a child with a disability or a disabled adult and would like information about support, services and activities in Guernsey you may find this website useful: www.signpost.gg

If you are writing to Social Security, please quote your social insurance number, if known.

What to do if you have a complaint

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our services please let a member of staff know at the time so that we can try to resolve the issue immediately. If you wish to make a formal complaint to Social Security, please contact us for a complaints leaflet and return the completed complaints form to **Social Security, Edward T. Wheadon House, Le Truchot, St Peter Port, GY1 3WH.**

You can also request more information by email and return your complaint form to socialsecuritycomplaints@gov.gg or send your complaint or a compliment to us online at the States website, by visiting www.gov.gg/ccs and completing the electronic form.



How we collect and use information

Social Security processes personal information for social security purposes in order to carry out functions relating to the relevant social security and associated legislation that it administers. The information collected will depend on your business with us, but will be no more than is required for that purpose. We may get information about you from others for any of our purposes if the law allows us to do so. We may also share information with certain other organisations if the law allows us to. Any personal information you give to us will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001. If you wish to know more about the information we have about you, or about the way we use it, you can ask at the Office of the Committee for Employment & Social Security or by emailing: **employmentandsocialsecurity@gov.gg**

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