



Below are just a number of areas where financial support is available from the Department of Protection. In general, when a death has occurred and either the deceased or the bereaved spouse or civil partner is in receipt of a social welfare payment it is advisable to make contact with your local social welfare office to ascertain your rights in relation to continuing welfare support.

Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant

A once-off grant is payable to a widow, widower or surviving civil partner with dependent children (or whose child is born within 10 months of the death of his/her spouse or civil partner) who has an entitlement to:

- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension
- One-parent family payment
- Death benefit under Occupational Injuries Scheme
- Bereavement Grant
- A Widow's/Widower's Contributory Pension from another EU state or a country which Ireland has a bilateral social security agreement.

The amount of the grant in 2011 was €6,000 which is paid in addition to a Bereavement Grant if the applicant qualifies.

Bereavement Grants

A once-off payment to a maximum of €850 (2011) based on PRSI contributions is payable on the death of an insured person or their spouse, civil partner, cohabitant or dependent child.

There are certain criteria to be considered when determining if you are entitled to the grant and it is advisable to contact your social welfare office directly to ascertain which category you fall under.

Application for this grant should be made within twelve months from the date of death.

Occupational Injuries Benefit Scheme

Where a death occurred because of an accident at work or while travelling to/from work or as a result of an occupational disease, a Funeral Grant to a maximum of €850 may be available under the Occupational Injuries Scheme. Please note however this would be paid out instead of the Bereavement Grant.

Where the deceased was in receipt of a Disablement Pension, under the Occupational Injuries Benefit Scheme, a slightly higher rate may be payable. Certain criteria must be met to be approved for this increase and it is advisable to contact your local social welfare office.

Where deceased was in receipt of a social welfare payment

If the deceased was in receipt of a social welfare payment and the amount included a payment in respect of a spouse or partner, then the same rate of payment is continued for six weeks after death. The bereaved spouse or partner may then qualify for a widow, widower's or surviving civil partners payment which is payable from the seventh week. Please contact your local social welfare office for further information.

Maternity Benefit

If a wife dies while receiving Maternity Benefit, the spouse may qualify for the rest of her entitlement to the payment or for six weeks payment whichever is longer. Fathers are entitled to maternity leave if the mother dies within 40 weeks of the birth, the length of leave depends on the actual date of the mother's death.

Within 24 weeks of the birth – option for unpaid period of maternity leave of up to 16 weeks

Over 24 weeks after the birth – father entitled to leave until 40 weeks after the birth.

Leave starts within 7 days of the time of death.