



# BEREAVEMENT ALLOWANCES

You might be able to get any of these 3 allowances if your husband, wife or civil partner dies.

**BEREAVEMENT ALLOWANCE (BA)**- (previously known as Widow's Pension). If you're **widowed between the age of 45 and state pension age**; you can get BA for up to 52 weeks from the date your husband, wife or civil partner died. **The amount you get** also depends on: the overall level of your husband, wife or civil partner's **National Insurance (NI) Contributions** or if they died as a result of an industrial accident or disease.

**YOU WON'T GET BA** if you:

- are bringing up children - you can claim **Widowed Parent's Allowance** instead
- remarry or form a new civil partnership
- live with another person as if you're married or in a civil partnership
- were divorced from your husband, wife or civil partner before their death
- **were over State Pension age** when you were widowed or became a surviving civil partner - you may be able to get extra **State Pension**
- are in prison.

**BEREAVEMENT PAYMENT (BP)** -You may also be able to get a £2,000 one off lump sum if your husband, wife or civil partner has died. This tax-free but **to be eligible you must be:**

- under State Pension age
- over State Pension age and your husband, wife or civil partner wasn't entitled to a State Pension as they hadn't paid enough NI
- they died as a result of an industrial accident or disease

You can't get BP if you were divorced when they died, or living with another person.

**WIDOWED PARENT'S ALLOWANCE (WPA)** you might be able to get up to £112 PW if you're **widowed under State Pension age** and have at least one dependent child. You may also be able to claim if you're pregnant and your husband has died. **You can't get WPA until you stop being entitled to Child Benefit.**

**Claiming any of these bereavement benefits, can affect your entitlement to other benefits. Ask your local Job Centre how this works.**

**COST OF FUNERAL** There may also be help towards the cost of the funeral **from the Social Fund**, but the person paying for the funeral must be on a qualifying benefit within 3 months of the funeral taking place.

**SEE REVERSE FOR HOW TO TELL ABOUT A DEATH AND HOW TO CLAIM THE BENEFITS MENTIONED ABOVE:**

26/1/16 Sudbury CA. For further information refer to [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) or [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

**HOW TO CLAIM:** For all 3 benefits download a **Bereavement Benefits pack (form BB1)** from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), pick up a pack from the Job Centre.

You can report a death for someone who is claiming benefits including state pension by telephoning the DWP **Bereavement Service** (0845 606 0285).

Some local authorities also operate a '**TELL US ONCE SERVICE**'. To be able to use this service you must first register the death and the registrar will give you the telephone number and website address to report the death electronically it is on the Gov.Uk website but you need to put in a registration number given to you by the registrar. Not all authorities operate this service which is why it isn't widely publicised. However you don't have to use this service and can notify the necessary services individually yourself.

The tell us Once Service is useful has a wider coverage than the DWP Bereavement Service as with one phone call/ on line reporting they will inform not only DWP benefits departments but also the income tax people (HMRC) DVLA and the local council to cancel a blue badge, take the deceased name off of the electrical register and council tax.