

**WHAT ARE THEY?**

These are benefits paid to widows, widowers and civil partners. They apply to people whose spouses died after 09.04.2001, or whose registered civil partner died on or after 05.12.2005.

**BEREAVEMENT PAYMENT**

- ◆ This is a lump sum of £2,000, payable to widows, widowers & civil partners.
- ◆ You must claim this payment within 12 months of your spouse/civil partner's death.
- ◆ Either your late spouse/civil partner satisfied the National Insurance Contributions conditions  
or your late spouse/civil partner died as the result of an industrial injury or disease, and
- ◆ Either you were under pension age when your spouse/civil partner died  
or if you were over pension age, your spouse/civil partner was not entitled to a Category A Retirement Pension.

**WIDOWED PARENTS ALLOWANCE**

Formerly Widowed Mothers Allowance, Widowed Parents Allowance is paid to the widow, widower or civil partner with dependent children, if:

- ◆ you were under pension age at the date of your spouse/civil partner's death
- ◆ your late spouse/civil partner satisfied the contributions conditions or died as a result of an industrial accident or disease
- ◆ you receive Child Benefit for at least one child (or pregnant by the deceased, or through fertility treatment with your partner)
- ◆ you are single and not living with a new partner.

## **BEREAVEMENT ALLOWANCE**

This replaces Widows Pension, but is only paid for up to 52 weeks.

The main rules are that you are:

- ◆ over 45 but under pension age at the date of your spouse/civil partner's death
- ◆ your late spouse/civil partner satisfied the contributions conditions or died as a result of an industrial accident or disease
- ◆ not entitled to Widowed Parents Allowance
- ◆ not over pension age
- ◆ single and not living with a new partner.

You will only get the full rate of Bereavement Allowance if you are 55 or over. If you are aged between 45 and 54, you will get a partial payment, depending on your age when widowed.

## **'SPIN OFF'**

### **MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS: income disregard**

A bereaved person may be eligible for one or more of a number of means-tested benefits. Income Support and income-based JSA top-up low income (the only difference between the two is that you have to sign on as available for, and fit for work for JSA). Claim ESA if unfit for work, and Pension Credit is claimed by people over pension age\*. Housing Benefit is for tenants and Council Tax Benefit is for those liable to pay the Council Tax.

£10 per week of Widowed Parents Allowance is ignored for Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance (ib) / ESA (ir) and Pension Credit, and £15 per week is ignored for Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Benefit.

## **HOW TO CLAIM BEREAVEMENT BENEFITS**

- ◆ Contact your local Jobcentre Plus: each office has a Bereavement 'specialist officer'

\* Between April 2010 and March 2018 the pension age for women will be gradually increased from 60 to 65, then to 66 for both men and women by 2020. During this period, other benefits previously available from the age of 60 (such as Pension Credit) will also see the qualifying age gradually increased. You will, therefore, need to check what "pension age" means at different times.

## **FURTHER ADVICE** - Contact your local advice centre

The information in this factsheet is correct as of October 2010

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*Produced by Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service  
Funded by: Warwickshire County Council  
Charity Reg No: 1113524 Company No. 5730678*

