



# **REGULATED SOCIAL FUND**



## **1. SURE START MATERNITY GRANT**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

This is a lump sum payment for the claimants first expected child. This grant will only be paid if the new baby is the only child aged under 16 in the household, with two exceptions:

1. If there are multiple births a grant can be made for each baby, or
2. A grant can still be made if the new parent is aged under 20 and is herself a member of the family of the person making the claim [i.e. the parent is herself a child].

### **TO QUALIFY**

- ◆ You or your partner must be getting a qualifying benefit:- Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance (income-based), Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), Pension Credit, and certain levels of Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.
- ◆ You claim no earlier than 11 weeks before the baby is expected and up to 3 months after s/he is born.
- ◆ You can claim if:-
  - you adopt a child. The child must be less than 12 months old when you claim the payment, or
  - you have been granted a parental order allowing you to have a child by a surrogate mother.
- ◆ You must have received health and welfare advice from a midwife, health visitor or doctor relating to your baby or your maternal health.

### **HOW MUCH?**

This is a lump sum of £500 for each qualifying child. The payment is not affected by any capital you have.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- ◆ The time limits are very strict. However, if you think you may be awarded backdated benefit to cover that period, make your claim anyway. Then, if refused, re-claim within 3 months of being awarded your backdated benefit.

## **HOW TO CLAIM**

Use form SF 100 from your local Jobcentre Plus / Pension Service, or call 0845 608 8649 or antenatal clinic. The back of your claim form must be signed by a health professional to confirm that you have received health and welfare advice.

## **2. FUNERAL PAYMENT**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

This is a payment towards certain funeral costs

### **TO QUALIFY**

- ◆ You or your partner get a qualifying benefit:- Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance (income-based), Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, or certain rates of Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.
  - ◆ You claim within the time limit (up to 3 months after the funeral).
  - ◆ You accept responsibility for the costs AND were the partner of the deceased/and part of the same household
- OR - you were a close relative/friend of the deceased and there is no surviving partner nor any immediate family member not on a qualifying benefit
- OR - you are claiming for the funeral of a child who lived with you and there is no 'absent parent' not on a 'qualifying benefit'.

### **HOW MUCH?**

The payment will cover the costs of a simple funeral covering burial or cremation costs and up to £700 of other funeral costs.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- ◆ Any funeral payment is recoverable from the estate of the deceased.
- ◆ Other deductions include
  - any sum due at death e.g. insurance policy, burial club etc.
  - any charitable contribution
  - any amount from a prepaid funeral scheme.
- ◆ A 'close relative' could prevent entitlement to a funeral payment.

- ◆ The time limits are very strict. However, if you think you may be awarded backdated benefit to cover that period, make your claim anyway. Then, if refused, re-claim within 3 months of being awarded your backdated benefit.
- ◆ If possible you should seek advice before arranging the funeral, as you may find that not all of the funeral costs are covered.

## **HOW TO CLAIM**

Form SF 200 from your local Jobcentre Plus / Pension Service, or call 0845 608 8649.

## **3. COLD WEATHER PAYMENT**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

It is an extra payment for certain people triggered by a period of cold weather.

### **TO QUALIFY**

- ◆ The daily temperature for 7 days in a row must be at or below freezing.
- ◆ You must be on a qualifying benefit for at least 1 day during that period [Income Support , Jobseekers Allowance (income-based), Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)]

**AND** you are responsible for a child under the age of 5,

**OR** your Income Support/JSA (IB) includes any disability or pensioner premium,

**OR** your ESA(IR) includes either the support component or the work-related activity component or any pensioner, severe disability or enhanced disability premium

**OR** you get Child Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element

**OR** you have been awarded Pension Credit for at least one of those days.

- ◆ You are not resident in a Care Home

### **HOW MUCH**

Payments are automatic; the current rate is £25 for each week of cold weather.

## **4. WINTER FUEL PAYMENT**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

It is a lump sum payment for people aged over the female pension age\*, to help towards winter fuel bills.

\* 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.

### **WHO IS EXCLUDED?**

- Anyone who is in prison.
- Anyone who has been in hospital for more than 52 weeks.
- Anyone who is in Residential Care and has been for 13 weeks or more and is getting Pension Credit, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

### **HOW MUCH IS IT?**

- £200 if you are aged 60-79 in the week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in September
- £300 if you are aged 80 or over

If you share your home with another person who is entitled, only one payment is made per household. It will be split between you unless you get Pension Credit, JSA(ib) or ESA(ir) as a couple (in which case either of you can be paid the full amount).

People in Residential Care who do not receive income-based Jobseekers Allowance or Pension Credit or ESA(ir) are entitled to get half the above amounts.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

Decisions on payments for **Maternity, Funeral, Cold Weather or Winter Fuel Payments** can be appealed to an Independent Tribunal.

### **FURTHER HELP**

Get leaflet SB 16 or contact your local Advice Centre. For Winter Fuel Payments telephone: 0845 915 1515.

**The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2011**

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