

## FIS factsheet

# Support for families affected by bereavement

April 2014

You may be entitled to the benefits and grants listed below depending on your individual circumstances. This information was correct as of April 2014. Please contact the services listed for more information.

**Benefit cap** – the benefit cap limits the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive. The cap is set at £500 per week for a family with children. It will not apply if you work sufficient hours to be eligible for working tax credit and in certain other circumstances. One-off benefits/ grants (e.g. Budgeting Loan) and non-cash benefits (e.g. Free School Meals) will not be included in the assessment of benefit income.

**Universal Benefits** – for information on the universal benefits such as Child Benefit, tax credits, housing and work related benefits, please see one of our other factsheets 'Financial support for parents', 'Financial support for families affected by disability, serious illness and for carers', 'Financial support for people on low pay or unemployed'.

### Bereavement Specific Benefits

**Bereavement Allowance** – if you're widowed and between 45 years old and state pension age, you may be able to claim this allowance which is a taxable weekly benefit paid to you for up to 52 weeks from the date of death of your husband, wife or civil partner.

**Bereavement Payment** – if you were under state pension age and were still married to your husband, wife or civil partner when they died, you may be able to get Bereavement Payment. It is a one-off, lump-sum payment of £2,000 that is tax-free.

**Funeral Payment** – if you are on a low income and need help to pay for a funeral, you may be able to get a Funeral Payment. This will depend on what benefits you are getting, your relationship with the person who died and any other money, other than personal savings, that may be available to help with the cost of the funeral. You may need to repay this from the deceased person's estate (if they have one).

**Widowed Parent's Allowance** – if you are a parent under state pension age whose husband, wife or civil partner has died and you have at least one child who you receive Child Benefit for, you may be able to get this benefit.

**Armed Forces Compensation** – you may be able to get compensation for any injury or illness caused by service in the Armed Forces on or after 6 April 2005. In case of a service-related death, it can provide a payment to a surviving partner or child. MOD Bereavement Line: 0800 169 3458

#### To apply for bereavement benefits

Contact your local Jobcentre Plus or by calling the Bereavement Service Helpline 0845 608 8601 or 0345 6060865 (option 2).

#### Government Information

[www.gov.uk/after-a-death](http://www.gov.uk/after-a-death)

Provides guidance as to what to do after someone has died as well as benefit information.

#### Citizen's Advice Bureau

Tel: 0844 855 2322

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

#### Registering a death in Warwickshire

Call 0300 555 0255 to make an appointment with your local registrar.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/deathregistration](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/deathregistration)

#### Bereavement Advice Centre

Supports and advises people on what they need to do after a death. Tel: 0800 634 9494

Web: [www.bereavementadvice.org](http://www.bereavementadvice.org)

## Bereavement support and counselling organisations

**WAY Widowed and Young** – is a national charity which aims to support young widowed men and women as they adjust to life after the death of their partner.

Tel: 0300 012 4929

Web: [www.widowedandyoung.org.uk](http://www.widowedandyoung.org.uk)

**Winston's Wish** – is the leading childhood bereavement charity and the largest provider of services to bereaved children, young people and their families in the UK. They offer practical support and guidance to families, professionals and anyone concerned about a grieving child.

Tel: 08452 03 04 05

Web: [www.winstonswish.org.uk](http://www.winstonswish.org.uk)

**Child Bereavement UK** – gives specialised support, advice and training to all those affected when a baby or child dies, or when a child is bereaved.

Tel: 0800 02 88840

Web: [www.childbereavement.org.uk](http://www.childbereavement.org.uk)

**Cruse Bereavement Care** – provides support and advice to anyone who has been affected by bereavement, helping them to understand their grief and cope with their loss.

Tel: 0844 477 9400

Web: [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

**Parentchannel TV** – Dealing with Bereavement – looks at the reactions young children may have to the death of someone close, and offers some tips and advice on how to support them and help them understand.

[www.parentchannel.tv/video/bereavement-0](http://www.parentchannel.tv/video/bereavement-0)

**The Laura Centre** – offers bereavement counselling to anyone who is affected by the death (or anticipated death) of a child and for any child or young person up to the age of 25 who is affected by the death (or anticipated death) of a parent or carer.

Web: [www.thelauracentre.org.uk](http://www.thelauracentre.org.uk)

**Assist Trauma Care** – is a charity providing support for anyone dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the after-effects of trauma.

Tel: 01788 560800

Web: [www.assisttraumacare.org.uk](http://www.assisttraumacare.org.uk)

**Mind** – a charity providing support for anyone facing mental stress.

Tel: 0300 123 3393

Web: [www.mind.org.uk/mental\\_health\\_a-z/8046\\_bereavement](http://www.mind.org.uk/mental_health_a-z/8046_bereavement)

**Note:** Individual charities and associations may offer help lines for specific conditions, please contact the Family Information Service for more information.

### Warwickshire Family Information Service

0845 090 8044 (local rate) or 01926 742 274

[fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)

[Warwickshire.gov.uk/fis](http://Warwickshire.gov.uk/fis)