

Bereaved parents, who were co-habiting, reminded to check eligibility for financial support.

Bereaved parents who lost their partner between 9 April 2001 and 8 February 2023, and were co-habiting may be eligible for backdated government payments.

In February the Government extended eligibility for Bereavement Support Payment and Widowed Parent's Allowance to cohabiting parents with dependent children - benefits designed to help with the financial impact of losing a partner.

Previously these benefits were only available to eligible bereaved parents who were married or in a civil partnership, but [the law was changed](#) to make it fairer to children.

When the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) extended eligibility in February, it opened a 12-month window for cohabiting parents to backdate their claims. This means parents whose partner died before 9 February 2023 have until 8 February 2024 to claim. After this, it will not be possible to claim Widowed Parent's Allowance and parents will not get their full entitlement to a backdated payment of Bereavement Support Payment.

When your partner died, you must have been one of the following:

- getting Child Benefit
- eligible for Child Benefit
 - pregnant

To apply, you'll need:

your National Insurance number

your bank or building society account details

the date your partner died

your partner's National Insurance number

Apply by phone

Bereavement Service helpline

Telephone: 0800 151 2012

Welsh language: 0800 731 0453

Textphone: 0800 731 0464

Welsh language: 0800 731 0456

[Relay UK](#) (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 151 2012

British Sign Language (BSL) [video relay service](#) if you're on a computer - find out how to [use the service on mobile or tablet](#)

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6p

OR

ONLINE at gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment/how-to-claim>