

Help with paying for a funeral

A death that is unexpected, or that comes at a difficult time, can make paying for even the simplest funeral seem impossible. However, we can advise on lower cost funeral choices and sources of support if you are struggling with funeral costs.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT WITH FUNERAL COSTS

Funeral Expenses Payment (gov.uk/funeral-payments)

If you are the partner of the person who has died, or a close relative or friend if they had no partner, and you receive qualifying benefits — such as Housing Benefit, Pension Credit, Income Support or Universal Credit — you might be eligible to claim a Funeral Expenses Payment from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). If you are applying for the Funeral Expenses Payment, please let us know as soon as possible.

Payments from the DWP are usually a contribution towards the costs, not the full amount. You are responsible for paying any extra costs, or paying all the costs if your claim is unsuccessful. These costs will need to be paid three working days prior to the funeral.

The Funeral Expenses Payment can help with the costs of:

- Burial fees
- Cremation fees
- Travel to a meeting at our Tooting HQ or travel to attend the funeral
- Some of the cost of moving the person to our mortuary (if over 50 miles)
- Death certificates or other documents needed by the person's bank.

You can also get up to £1,000 for other funeral costs, such as funeral director's fees, a hearse and a coffin. This is unlikely to cover all the costs and you may need to cover the difference yourself.

Bereavement Support Payment (gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment)

Available if your husband, wife, civil or cohabiting partner died in the last 21 months and you were under pensionable age when they died. This consists of an initial payment, followed by up to 18 monthly payments.

SUPPORT WITH CHILDREN'S FUNERAL COSTS

The Children's Funeral Fund for England (gov.uk/child-funeral-costs)

This covers some funeral costs for a child under 18 or a baby stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy, including the costs of burial or cremation and a coffin (up to £300). Your funeral director can claim these directly. You may be able to also claim a Funeral Expenses Payment to help with other funeral expenses.

Charitable funding

- The Child Funeral Charity (childfuneralcharity.org.uk)
- React (reactcharity.org)

OTHER SUPPORT WITH FUNERAL COSTS

Down to Earth helpline: 020 8983 5055

(quakersocialaction.org.uk/we-can-help/helping-funerals/down-earth)

A service that helps people who are struggling with funeral costs to find the right support, including information about available grants.

ACCESSING BANK ACCOUNTS

The person who died might have left money in their account to pay for their funeral.

Because the bank or building society freezes the account(s) when its told of the person's death, you may need help from the executor of the estate.

Contact the bank's bereavement services team to find out what documents they need from you.

LOWER COST CHOICES

These are the lowest funeral costs we're able to offer at Poppy's.

Cremation funeral (attended) £3,355

Collection within M25, care of the person for up to 28 days, a simple cardboard coffin, Poppy's van hearse, an early morning service at Lambeth Crematorium, with no paid bearers.

Simple Cremation (unattended) £2,100

Collection and care of the person, the ability to visit them and have them dressed in their clothes, a simple cardboard coffin, Poppy's van hearse.

Direct Cremation (unattended), £1,850

Collection and care of the person, simple coffin, Poppy's van hearse.

Get in touch: 020 3879 9111
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Costs may vary. Contact Poppy's for our latest prices, including burial costs. Feb 2025