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## Funeral Grant

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### ***Introduction***

You may be eligible for a Funeral Grant if you are the partner\* or parent of a person who has died, or you are arranging the funeral of someone with no partner or child.

This grant is used to help pay the actual costs of the funeral. The person must have been ordinarily resident in New Zealand at the time of their death.

### ***Funeral Grant amount***

The maximum Funeral Grant that can be paid to meet funeral expenses is \$1,820.08 (as at 1 April 2009).

How much you may receive depends on the assets owned by the person who has died. If you are their partner or parent, your income and assets are also taken into account.

Assets include any bank accounts, bonus bonds, shares, property, insurance policies etc. The family home is not taken into account when there is a surviving partner or child.

In the case of a single person, if the assets exceed the cost of the funeral, no assistance is available.

When assessing entitlement for a couple or a sole parent, the first \$1,586.63 of joint cash assets is exempt. If the cash asset balance is less than the cost of the funeral, assistance may be given up to the maximum funeral grant amount.

If the person who died was receiving a benefit/pension, there is some discretion to continue payment for up to 4 weeks after the date of death. These payments will form part of the deceased person's assessable estate.

You will not qualify for a Funeral Grant if:

- the person who has died gets an Ex-service Person's Funeral Grant of Payment on Death, *or*
- accident insurance payments are given to help with funeral costs, *or*
- your income exceeds \$37,754.08 per year as at 1 April 2009 (if you are the partner or parent of the person who has died).

# Factsheet

## ***Application Process***

You will need to complete an application and provide:

- a death certificate
- a funeral account
- verification of assets as at the date of death i.e. bank statements for all bank accounts *and*
- verification of income (if you are the partner or parent of the person who has died).

## ***Need more information?***

If you have any questions please phone **0800 552 002** between 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm Saturday or contact your nearest Work and Income Service Centre during working hours.

If you are deaf, hearing impaired or find it hard to communicate by phone, you can send a message to our Deaf Link free-fax 0800 621 621. You can also contact us via the Teletypewriter telephone (TTY) on 0800 111 113 or email us on **MSD\_Deaf\_Services@msd.govt.nz**.

\*A partner is your spouse (husband or wife), your civil union partner, or someone of the same or opposite sex with who you have a de facto relationship.