

Rights and financial benefits

It may seem strange and perhaps upsetting to think about claiming benefits when your baby has died. However, many bereaved families find themselves facing unexpected financial strain at this time, so it is important to enquire about all the rights and benefits to which you may be entitled.

If your baby died before 24 weeks of pregnancy:

Legally, a baby born less than 24 weeks of pregnancy is termed a miscarriage. Unfortunately, you are not entitled to maternity or paternity rights or financial benefits if you have had a late miscarriage. However you may be entitled to sick leave and sick pay, please speak to your employer or HR department about this.

If your baby was stillborn after 24 weeks of pregnancy or your baby was born alive and then died:

Mothers are entitled to full statutory maternity leave and maternity benefits. You should contact your local Department of Social Protection or HR department to assist you in your application.

The previously available bereavement grant has been discontinued. However if you are having difficulty in paying for services incurred due to the death of your baby you can contact your local Community Welfare Officer for financial assistance.

Your local Citizens Advice Bureau and/or Department of Social Protection should be able to advise you on the most up-to-date position regarding entitlements.

See **www.welfare.ie**, **www.citizensinformation.ie** or the hospital may have their own social work department who you can contact. You may also contact Feileacain's social worker on 085 2496464.



Feileacáin

For further information contact Féileacáin: Office: 37 North Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.
Tel. **028 22407** • Fax **028 22084** • Email: **admin@feileacain.ie** • Web: **www.feileacain.ie**

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