



Paying for your Child's Funeral

This brief information is a supplement to The Compassionate Friend's leaflet *Preparing our Child's Funeral*.

For parents whose child was under the age of 18

The **Children's Funeral Fund for England** will help to pay for some of the costs of a funeral for a child under 18 or a baby stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy. The Children's Funeral Fund should cover:

- The cost of burial or cremation
- Up to £300 towards the cost of a casket or coffin
- A few other specific items such as a container for storing ashes.

This fund is not means-tested. It is available for any funeral for a child in England, no matter the residence, nationality or income of the parent.

The funeral director and burial authority claim the funds from the government directly.

See: [How to claim for costs of a child's funeral – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-for-costs-of-a-childs-funeral)

In Wales, Scotland and the majority of councils in Northern Ireland, local authorities do not charge for a burial or cremation of a child under the age of 18.

Additional support if your child was 16 or younger

The **Child Funeral Charity** may be able to provide additional financial assistance for elements that are not covered by the Children's Funeral Fund, such as:

- Flowers
- Order of ceremony
- A plaque

This funding is only available for children age 16 and younger.

Someone else will need to apply on your behalf. Suitable referrers include Funeral Directors, Celebrant or Faith representatives, Bereavement Nurses or Midwives, Hospice Managers, General Practitioners, Local Authority Registrars, Hospital Bereavement Officers, Hospital Medical Registrars and many others.

See: www.childfuneralcharity.org.uk

For parents whose child was 18 and over

There is no specific funding available towards the funeral of an adult child. However, families in receipt of certain benefits might be able to receive some support from the government's **Funeral Expenses Payment**.

See: [Get help with funeral costs \(Funeral Expenses Payment\) – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-help-with-funeral-costs)

Information on this page is correct to the best of our knowledge. We can offer no guarantees that applications for funding will be successful. Please follow the links for up-to-date and precise information.

This page was produced by The Compassionate Friends (TCF), a nationwide organisation of bereaved parents and their families offering support after a child dies. TCF publishes a range of leaflets on a variety of topics. Find out more by contacting us:

■ Website and online forum: www.tcf.org.uk ■ TCF UK Helpline: **0345 123 2304**

■ General Enquiries and Administration **0345 120 3785**