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Child Benefit

Child Benefit is a monthly payment made to the parents or guardians of children under 16 years of age, or under 18 years of age if the child is in full-time education, attending Youthreach or has a disability.

Child Benefit is paid at one and a half times the appropriate monthly rate for twins, and at double the appropriate monthly rate for triplets and other multiple births.

From January 2010, children aged 18 no longer get Child Benefit.

You need to apply for Child Benefit within 12 months of:

- The birth of your baby or
- The month the child became a member of your family or
- The month the family came to live in Ireland.

If your baby is born in Ireland, when you register the birth the Department of Social Protection will begin a Child Benefit claim for your child:

- If you are not claiming Child Benefit for another child a new claim is created by the Department and a partially completed claim form is sent to you for your signature and payment details. The baby is also given a [Personal Public Service \(PPS\) Number](#).
- If you are claiming Child Benefit for another child, your new baby is added to your Child Benefit claim and payment begins automatically from the month after the birth. A letter confirming payment will be sent to you by the Department. The baby is also given a Personal Public Service (PPS) Number.

If your child is 16 or 17 years of age and in full-time education you will get Child Benefit until June. You will not get another payment until your child returns to full-time education in September. The Child Benefit section will send you an application form in August. If your child returns to full-time education in September, fill in and return this application form. When you get your payment it will include any arrears due to you, including Child Benefit for July and August.

If you don't get a form in the post from the Child Benefit section, fill in form CB2 in September.

EU/EEA citizens and Swiss nationals working in Ireland satisfy the habitual residence condition for Child Benefit. This is also the case if the worker becomes unemployed and gets a jobseeker's payment.

Non-EU/EEA citizens must be habitually resident in Ireland to qualify for Child Benefit. If you are a non-EU/EEA citizen and legally working in this State, you may qualify for Child Benefit if your child is also resident here.

Child Benefit monthly rate in 2012:

Child Benefit	Monthly rate
One child	€140
Two children	€280
Three children	€428
Four children	€588

In Budget 2012 it was announced that rates for Child Benefit will be standardised for all children over the next two years so this will mean the same rate will be paid for each child regardless of the number of children in the family.

Multiple births

The rate of child benefit paid for twins will be 1.5 times the appropriate monthly rate for each child and double the rate for triplets and other multiple births.

The rate for the 1st and 2nd child is €140.00 per month, €148.00 for the 3rd child and €160.00 for the 4th and subsequent children.

The special 'once-off' grant of €635 previously paid on all multiple births and the further 'once-off' grants of €635 paid when the children are 4 years of age and 12 years of age has ceased from 1st Jan 2012.

Social Welfare Services Office
St Oliver Plunkett Road
Letterkenny
Donegal
Tel: 074 916 4400 or Locall: 1890 400 400

To get an application form text Form CHILD followed by your name and address to 51909