

One-Parent Family Payment

One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) is a means-tested payment for men and women under 66 who are bringing children up without the support of a partner.

If you are the main carer of at least one child under the age of 7, you may qualify for OFP if you meet certain conditions (see below).

There are some exceptions to the child's age limit which may be relevant if your family is affected by cancer (see below).

Who can apply?

To qualify for One-Parent Family Payment, you must:

- Be under 66
- Be the parent, step-parent, adoptive parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of 7.
- Be the **main carer** of at least one child under the age of 7. The child must live with you. You cannot get One-Parent Family Payment if you have joint equal custody of a child or children
- Satisfy a means test. A means test looks at your income to see if it is below a certain level.
- Not be living with a spouse, civil partner or cohabitant
- Meet the habitual residence condition - this means that you have lived in Ireland for some time and intend to stay in Ireland for the foreseeable future.
- Be living apart from your previous partner for at least three months before you apply for One-Parent Family Payment following separation, divorce or the dissolving of a civil partnership. You may be required to make efforts to seek maintenance payments from your former partner

What is the rate of payment?

One-Parent Family Payment	Child dependant
Maximum personal weekly rate	
€ 203	Child aged under 12 years € 38.00
	Child aged 12 years and over € 45.00

Exceptions to the age limit

Domiciliary Care Allowance - If you are getting Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) for a child, you can apply for or continue to claim One Parent Family Payment on behalf of that child until the child reaches 16 or DCA stops.

Carer's Allowance - If you are currently getting One Parent Family Payment (OFP) and providing full-time care, you can keep your OFP and claim half-rate Carer's Allowance, provided that your youngest child is under 16 years.

Death of a spouse or partner - If you are a new claimant and you are parenting alone because of the death of your spouse or partner, you may get One Parent Family Payment for 2 years from the date of death, provided that your youngest child is under 18.

How do I apply?

Visit your local [Social Welfare or Intreo office](#) to complete and submit an application Form OFP 1.

OR

Download and complete [Form OFP 1](#) which is available on the [Department of Social Protection](#) website.

You should send your application form along with any relevant supporting documentation to your local [Social Welfare or Intreo Office](#).

The information above is an overview of the One-Parent Family Payment

For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

- Visit [Citizens Information](#) online
- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- Contact your Medical Social Worker