

Subject: Updates to Funeral Benefits Policies

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BACKGROUND:

Funeral benefits are available to help pay for the funeral arrangements of deceased Income Support household members, as well as other deceased Albertans with low income, when eligibility criteria are met. Funeral benefits are available for expenses related to:

- the burial or cremation and the funeral of the deceased within Alberta; or
- transporting the deceased to another province in Canada for burial or cremation

Funeral benefits policies have been updated as follows:

- contributions to the funeral provided by non-responsible survivors including family members who are not responsible survivors, friends, religious or community organizations or groups, and crowd sourcing accounts, are no longer considered when determining eligibility for a funeral benefit, regardless of the amount contributed;
- a funeral ceremonial farewell includes the cost of a facility rental and refreshments;
- examples of what will be paid for as an exception have been clarified; and
- an applicant may apply for the balance of the Canada Pension Plan – Death Benefit when the full amount is not recovered by the program.

The [Funeral Benefits Application for IS Clients](#) and the [Funeral Benefits Application for Albertans with Low Income](#) forms have been updated to include:

- a consent to name people or organizations, such as the funeral home, to receive information on the status of an application;

- a section for an applicant to indicate where the payment should be directed to;
- a checklist of documents to submit with the application form; and
- the Funeral Benefits Contact Centre's phone number.

The [Funeral Benefits – Payment Direction](#) form has also been amended and a new [Funeral Benefits – Request for an Exceptional Amount](#) form is available on the Alberta funeral benefits [website](#);

- These forms may be submitted either with a completed application form, if all of the required documents are available, or once the applicant is notified of an approval for the funeral benefit;

INTENT:

To provide information on updates to the Expected to Work/Barriers to Full Employment policy and procedures.

POLICY:

The following policies have been updated:

[Funeral Benefits for Income Support Households](#)

[Funeral Benefits for Low Income Albertans](#)

[Exempt Income for Responsible Survivors and the Estate of the Deceased](#)