



# Borderwise:

## Social Security/Welfare

The Social Welfare system in the Republic of Ireland is complex and detailed therefore it is very difficult to provide a comprehensive guide. This information sheet is intended to provide a general overview of benefits which are available in Ireland. A more detailed description of the Social Security benefits which are available and how Frontier status will affect your entitlement to these benefits can be found by visiting the Department of Social and Family Affairs website at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Please note you must be “habitually resident” in Ireland to qualify for social assistance payments. In order to meet this condition you must have been lived in Ireland for 2 or more years, and have a settled intention to remain there and make it your permanent home. If you have lived in other parts of the Common Travel Area (Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) for two or more years and then move to Ireland with the intention of settling here, you are also quite likely to satisfy the habitual residence condition.



## Department of Social and Family Affairs

The Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA) is responsible for social security and welfare payments. You can get application forms and further information about all benefits from local social welfare offices. Most application forms are available on-line at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

## Jobseeker's Benefit

You may qualify for jobseeker's benefit if you are

- unemployed,
- aged under 66
- capable of work, available for work and genuinely seeking work and
- have enough Personal Public Service (PPS) contributions

Contributions paid in Northern Ireland may be combined with contributions from ROI to help you qualify. Essentially jobseeker's benefit is the equivalent of contribution based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) in NI. Jobseeker's Benefit is payable for a maximum of 65 weeks or 52 weeks if you have less than five years contributions. Application can be made at a local social welfare office.

## Jobseeker's Allowance

If you are not entitled to Jobseeker's Benefit or you have exhausted your entitlement, you may qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance if you are resident in the South and unemployed, capable of work, available for work and genuinely seeking work, aged between 18 and 66 and you pass a means test.

Going  
South

## Illness Benefit

In ROI there is no equivalent to Statutory Sick Pay which is available in NI. If you are ill, unable to work, aged under 66 and you have enough PPS contributions you may qualify for Illness Benefit (IB).

## Disability Allowance

Disability Allowance is a means tested payment made to people aged between 16 and 66, resident in the Republic of Ireland, who are unable to work because of a physical or mental illness, which has continued or may reasonably be expected to continue for at least a year.

## Carer's Allowance

In the Republic of Ireland you may qualify for Carer's Allowance if you are aged 18 or over, resident in the South and are caring for a person who needs full time care and attention and you pass a means test.

## Maternity Benefit/Adoptive Benefit

You may get Maternity Benefit (MB) or Adoptive Benefit (AB) if you are entitled to maternity or adoptive leave and you have paid enough PPS contributions. You may also qualify if you are self-employed and have paid enough contributions. MB is payable for 26 weeks. AB is payable for 24 weeks. If you are entitled to maternity pay under your contract of employment you may have to pay your MB to your employer or may have your pay reduced by the amount of MB.

## Child Benefit

You may get Child Benefit (CB) if you are caring for a child under 16 years of age or under 19 and in full time education or, attending a FAS Youthreach course or physically or mentally disabled and dependent on you. There is no means test and it is not based on social insurance contributions.

## One Parent Family Payment

A One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) may be paid to a parent living in the South who is bringing up children alone. It is means tested and it is possible to have some income from employment and remain entitled to some of the payment. The parent may be unmarried, widowed, a prisoner's spouse, separated or divorced. You are expected to look for maintenance from your spouse, former spouse or other parent.

## Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA)

The SWA scheme is designed for people who are resident in ROI and who do not have enough income to meet their needs. The rules are set out by the Department of Social and Family Affairs and it is administered by the HSE. You should apply at your nearest HSE local office or health centre.

## Contact Details

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