

Child benefit for unaccompanied children who are entitled to asylum and children recognised as refugees

Welcome to the Family Benefits Office of the Federal Employment Agency.

With this flyer, we wish to provide you with an initial overview of the entitlement to child benefit for unaccompanied child refugees.

1. When are children able to claim child benefit for themselves?

In general, only parents, and not the children themselves, are entitled to child benefit. The child benefit is itself paid to a child who lives in or is ordinarily resident in Germany and is an orphan or does not know the whereabouts of their parents (separated child).

In addition, no third persons, such as stepparents, grandparents or foster parents, must be entitled to child benefit.

For separated children from foreign countries, the entitlement to child benefit depends on their residence status.

Unaccompanied minors who are entitled to asylum and/or recognised refugees are entitled to child benefit **from the time that they are granted asylum or recognised as refugees** by the Federal Agency of Migration and Refugees. The same applies to **refugees with recognised subsidiary protection**.

Please note: Asylum seekers are **not generally entitled** to child benefit during an ongoing asylum procedure.

Therefore, please do not apply for child benefit until the application for asylum has been decided with a positive outcome.

2. What additional requirements are children aged over 18 required to fulfil?

Child benefit is paid until the child reaches the age of 18. The entitlement may also continue until the child reaches a maximum age of 25, if, for example, the child:

- Completes school or vocational training or a course of study,
- Seriously seeks an apprenticeship,
- Is registered as a jobseeker with an agency for employment or a job centre (up to the age of 21).

Further information about this is available in the "Child Benefit" leaflet.

3. How does the application process take place?

When the child reaches the age of 15, they are able to submit the application themselves or through an authorised representative. If the child has not yet reached the age of 15, an application must be submitted by their legal representative. To do this, the family court is able to appoint a guardian and/or the youth welfare office as an official guardian.

4. What documents are required to apply for child benefit?

The following documents must be submitted:

- Fully completed and signed application for child benefit for orphans or children who do not know the whereabouts of their parents,
- for children over the age of 18: Proof of eligibility (for example, school certificate),
- Proof of incontestable recognition as a person entitled to asylum/refugee (for example, residence permit),
- Proof of the date of entry into Germany,
- Appropriate proof that the parents are deceased or of unknown whereabouts.

Please note: Special types of personal data may be made unidentifiable. This includes information about ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health or sex life.

5. How much is child benefit?

Child benefit amounts to 255 euros per month.

6. How can you contact us?

Child benefit service number: 0800 4 5555 30

Service hours: Monday to Friday, 8 am until 6 pm

Internet address: www.familienkasse.de