

Child benefit for unaccompanied underage children entitled to claim political asylum and recognised refugees

Welcome to the Family Benefits Department of the Federal Employment Agency!

In this flyer we should like to provide you with an initial overview of the entitlement to child benefit for unaccompanied underage refugees.

Under what circumstances may children claim child benefit for themselves?

As a general rule, it is the parents but not the children themselves who are entitled to child benefit. However, a child shall receive benefit for itself if its permanent residence or habitual place of abode is in Germany and it is an orphan or does not know where its parents are staying (unaccompanied child).

An additional requirement is that no other third parties, such as step-parents, grandparents or foster parents should be entitled to child benefit.

In the case of foreign unaccompanied children the entitlement to child benefit is dependent upon their residential status.

Unaccompanied underage children entitled to political asylum and recognised refugees are entitled to child benefit **as from the point of time of their being deemed entitled to political recognition or recognised as a refugees** as defined in the Geneva Convention on Refugees by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. The same applies to **refugees who enjoy recognised subsidiary protection.**

Please note: those applying for political asylum are **not**, as a general rule, **entitled** to child benefit whilst their asylum procedure is ongoing.

Please, therefore, do not apply for child benefit until such time as a positive decision has been reached with regard to your application for asylum.

Which additional conditions must be fulfilled by children who are over the age of 18?

Child benefit is paid until such time as a child has reached the age of 18. Beyond this, continued entitlement shall exist until, at most, this child has reached the age of 25 if the child, for example:

- is currently absolving its school or vocational training, or a course of study,
- is seriously seeking a position as a trainee,
- is registered with an Employment Agency as looking for work (until it has reached the age of 21).

You will find more detailed information on this subject in the leaflet "Child Benefit".

How does one apply for child benefit?

Upon reaching the age of 15 the child may submit the application itself or cause it to be submitted by an authorised representative. Should the child not as yet have reached the age of 15 it is necessary that the application should be submitted by its legal representative.

To this end the family court may appoint a legal guardian or the Youth Welfare Office be appointed the official legal guardian.

What documents are required in order to apply for child benefit?

The following documents must be presented as an absolute necessity:

- A fully completed and signed application for child benefit for orphans or children who do not know where their parents are staying,
- For children over the age of 18: proof of fulfilment of the conditions of entitlement (e.g. school attendance certificate)
- Proof of the incontestable recognition of entitlement to political asylum/refugee (e.g. residence permit),
- Proof of the day on which you entered Germany.
- Suitable proofs of the deaths of the parents or of the fact that it is not currently known where they are staying.

How much is child benefit?

Child benefit amounts to €204 monthly.

How may you contact us?

Service number child benefit: 0800 4 5555 30
Service hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. till 6 p.m.

Internet address: www.familienkasse.de