

Calculating Your PA Funeral Assistance Payment

The Department of Public Welfare's (DPW's) payment is determined by adding the total value of contributions and resources available for cremation, then subtracting DPW's maximum payment of \$750, as follows:

- If the total value of available resources is equal to or greater than \$1,500, no DPW payment is made.
- If the total value of the resources is \$750 or less, DPW will pay \$750
- If the total value of the resources is more than \$750 but less than \$1,500, this amount is subtracted from \$1,500. The remainder is DPW's payment.

The total value of the following resources is used in determining the amount of burial payment:

1. A burial reserve and burial space.
2. Contributions of money or goods such as a casket, urn, burial plot, crypt or vault.
3. Cash on hand in the estate of the deceased.
4. Other personal property in the estate of the deceased that can be readily converted into cash and is not required to meet basic needs of the survivors.
5. Life insurance death benefits paid to an individual or organization when that individual or organization paid insurance premiums and had an agreement with the insured that the benefits are to be used for the deceased's burial, cremation, or both.
6. Burial or cremation benefits, or both, from a lodge or fraternal organization.
7. A lump-sum death benefit from the Social Security Administration (SSA) payable to a surviving spouse or to a funeral director.
8. The lump-sum death benefit from railroad retirement payable to a surviving spouse or a funeral director.
9. Benefits available from county commissioners on behalf of widows of deceased veterans.
10. Benefits available for burial in a National cemetery.
11. Workers compensation benefits designated for burial or cremation, or both, if death results from an accident or injuries sustained in connection with the employment of the deceased.
12. Awards resulting from accidental death not connected with the employment of the deceased. Pending awards do not reduce DPW's payment. When an award is pending, DPW will pay for burial or cremation, or both, and seek recovery when the award is made.
13. Department of Veterans Affairs death benefits.

14. Death benefits from United Mine Workers of America welfare and retirement or health and retirement funds.

Small contributions, such as the value of articles of clothing, transportation of the funeral party, newspaper obituaries, flowers and religious services, are not counted in determining the amount of the burial payment.

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