

INFORMATION ON BENEFITS ETC.

The following is based on last week's announcements and may need to be updated following amendments of Tuesday 24th March. We will revert with these amendments ASAP.

We have included a lot of links to different documents and forms. If you as client families don't have the capacity to print it at home, please contact local councillor/ TD as many of them are posting them out and sending them to their constituents.

Many Thanks & Stay Safe.

East Limerick Children's Services

SOCIAL WELFARE

Enhanced illness benefit payment

If you have been told to self-isolate due to contracting COVID-19 or are a suspect case and have been asked by your doctor to remain at home you can apply for enhanced illness benefit payment. More info in the link below:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/df55ae-how-to-apply-for-illness-benefit-for-covid-19-absences/>

Jobseekers Allowance

If you have recently lost your job as a result of COVID-19 you can apply for emergency Job seekers allowance using the form below. If you are a student and you were working while in third-level education I have been told you are also entitled to apply. If you are a parent who cannot work because of a creche closure you too can apply.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/be74d3-covid-19-pandemic-unemployment-payment/?fbclid=IwAR3EfiL2hRnvCUKwW1hEiETLfvdojNZsRdekg-kESCHQsCQiSHrIplw4Y#apply>

Collecting payment from An Post

If you are already receiving a social welfare payment, unfortunately, you will still need to continue to collect this from the post office. However, An Post from next week will be giving double social welfare payments every two weeks instead of once a week. This will mean you will only need to go to the post office every two weeks. This will be starting with the state pension but will be rolled out to everyone else.

If you don't think you should go to the post office at all you can nominate an agent to collect it on your behalf. When collecting the payment bring the form as well as the social welfare card, and ID of the nominated agent. the forms are available in the post office or you can print it from the link below

<https://www.anpost.com/AnPost/media/PDFs/Appointment-of-Temporary-Agent.pdf>

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Changing from An Post to Bank Payment

There are certain payments that you can get paid into the bank instead of collecting in the post office. These payments include disability allowance, illness benefit, and the state pension. They are dealing with a high volume at the minute so they will try to get as many processed as soon as they can. They will write out to you once as this has been completed and will let you know when it will change to a bank payment.

***** Disability Allowance *****

You can email them or post details of your PPSN, name, address and your bank account details (BIC & IBAN). They also ask for a copy of the top of your bank statement. They do not need to see your transactions; they just want confirmation that the details are accurate.

Email: DA_InetInfo@welfare.ie

Disability Allowance Section
Department of Social Protection
Ballinalee Rd
Longford

***** Illness Benefit *****

If you are on Illness benefit they ask you to send a signed letter with name, address of the bank, BIC and IBAN, your name, address and PPSN by post

Illness Benefit
PO BOX 1650
Store St
Dublin 1

***** State Pension (Contributory) *****

Send a signed letter with name and address of the bank, BIC and IBAN, your name, address and PPSN by post.

State Pension (Contributory)
Social Welfare Service
College Rd
Co Sligo

***** State Pension (Non-Contributory) *****

Send a signed letter with name and address of the bank, BIC and IBAN, your name, address and PPSN by post.

State Pension (Non-Contributory)
Social Welfare Service
College Rd
Co Sligo

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Help with Bills

If you have certain bills that are coming in the door that you are worried about such as gas electricity etc. the local Community Welfare Office may be able to help you. This is called a Supplementary Welfare Allowance payment. You can submit the form below with a bank statement, a recent payslip, and any bills that you need support with paying. (If you are submitting an old payslip make sure you mention that you are on emergency jobseekers payment as your old payslip will not accurately reflect your new income source)

Each Community Welfare office works differently. You may be able to apply by email or send it in the post. The best way to figure this out is to look up your local office details on this website.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/cb07d7-supplementary-welfare-allowance-swa-list-of-offices-administering-swa/?referrer=https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/otheroffice/community-welfare-office-contact.aspx>

The Supplementary Welfare Allowance Application is below.

<https://assets.gov.ie/24920/f93565af8bed495a817b8d7fbb18482a.pdf>

Pre-pay emergency credit

Emergency credit measures for pre-pay utility meter users extended to €100, for gas accounts is available. I would only use this on an emergency basis if you can't leave your house. Please read the article below to find out how to get this credit.

<https://www.cru.ie/cru-announces-covid-19-customer-protection-measures-to-assist-consumers/>

MORTGAGE

If you have a mortgage, contact whatever bank you have the mortgage with and see what they will be able to do in terms of freezing your mortgage or have a reduced payment.

RENT

If you are paying rent and think you are going to struggle contact your landlord. The government has asked landlords to give some relief to tenants who need it. However, depending on the landlord they may also be struggling with payments. If the landlord is not able to give you any relief at present ask him would they be willing to accept rent supplement or HAP payment from the council.

Rent Supplement

This is a payment given by the local social welfare/Intreo offices. You do not need to be on a social housing list to avail of this payment. Again each community welfare office operates differently on how this is processed but in general, it is the same form and they look for bank statement, lease agreement and evidence of payment of rent for the last 6 months. (this will probably be in your bank statement). Your landlord will also need to fill out part of the form.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/fb3b13-rent-supplement/?referrer=https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Rent-Supplement.aspx>

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HAP (Housing Assistance Payment)

If you are renting privately and are already on a social housing waiting list you can apply for HAP. This is done through your local City/County Council office. This essentially is the same as the rent supplement payment but will be faster to process as you are already on their system. You can find out more information here:
<http://hap.ie/>

If you are already in receipt of HAP contact your local council and ask can they review your contribution on the basis that you are now out of work.

Rent from the council

If you are renting directly from the council again contact them and see if they will review your rent. During the time of the foot and mouth outbreak, they froze the rent for council tenants for three months. I wouldn't be surprised if they implement this shortly.

LOANS

The government recently announced that the banks will be giving relief to business loans. There have been no announcements in relation to personal loans yet. My advice is to get in contact with your bank and see if there is anything they might be able to do for you at the moment.

MEDICAL EXPENSES

The government has advised that if you have any COVID-19 related medical expenses such as GP consultation or hospital admissions this will be paid for by the government. However, if you have other medical difficulties that you feel you will no longer be able to pay due to being out of work you can apply for a medical card. When completing the form, do so on the basis of your new jobseekers income. This application can be done online.

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/medical-cards/medical-card-application-process/how-to-apply-for-a-medical-card.html>

For further information in relation to any entitlements please see

www.citizensinformation.ie
