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Family benefits

Parental allowance

Some parents work less after the birth of their child. Some no longer want to work as much. Others can no longer work as much. They can then receive money from the government. Parents who live separately can also claim parental allowance. They can apply for parental allowance if they have a settlement or residence permit in Germany. You can find more detailed information in German, English, Turkish and Russian [here](#).

Child benefit

All parents with a settlement or residence permit in Germany are entitled to child benefit. You must apply for child benefit yourself at the Federal Employment Agency. This agency pays child benefit for every child from birth until at least the age of 18. You can find more detailed information in German, English, Turkish and Russian [here](#).

Parental allowance

Have you had a child and are looking after it yourself?

Then you are entitled to parental allowance.

One parent receives parental allowance for a maximum of **12 months**.

Both parents together are entitled to a maximum of **14 months**.

There are these conditions for entitlement to parental allowance:

- You **live in Germany**.
- You have a **valid residence permit**
- You live together **with your child**.
- You **look after** and **bring up** your child **yourself**.
- You **do not work at all** after the birth **or work a maximum of 32 hours** per week.

The **amount of parental allowance** depends on the **income** you earned **before the birth of** your child.



You are **also entitled to parental allowance** if you had **no income before the birth**.

You can find more information about **parental allowance and parental allowance** plus here:

 [Elterngeld und Elternzeit | Stadt Bochum](#)

 [Elterngeld und Elterngeld Plus | Familienportal des Bundes](#)

Do you need **advice on parental allowance**? Please contact the [Familienbüro Bochum](#).

Education and participation (BuT)

What is BuT?

The **education and participation package (BuT)** is a supportive **benefit for your child**. BuT supports families with children who have **a low income**. However, your **child must not be older than 25**. The [Youth Welfare Office](#) is usually responsible for the BuT.

Do you or your child receive benefits from the job centre?

Then you must **apply** for BuT directly at the **job centre**. You can find more **information** [here](#).

Do you or your child receive social assistance, benefits under the Asylum Seekers Act, housing benefit or child supplement?

Information on the **requirements** and benefits can be found on the website of the [Bochum Youth Welfare Office](#).

You can find the **application form** [here](#).

Child maintenance and advance maintenance payments

What is child maintenance?

Maintenance means that someone ensures that another person has **everything they need** to live. This can be **money**, but also **clothing, food and care**, for example. The issue is particularly important when **mothers and fathers separate**. It must then be clarified which parent the child lives with and how **maintenance is organised**.

You can find more **information about maintenance** [here](#).

What is maintenance advance?

Do you have a child and it only lives with one parent? Then the other parent must **support** the **child financially until the age of 18**. This is called **maintenance payment**.

Sometimes **the maintenance payment does not work**. For example, because the parent does not have enough money or cannot be found. Then there is the possibility of this **money being lent by the state**. This is called **maintenance advance**. The abbreviation UVG is also often used. **UVG** stands for the Maintenance Advance Act.

The [youth welfare office](#) is responsible for the maintenance advance. You can submit the application there to the [maintenance advance fund](#).



The **money from the maintenance advance** must **be repaid** by the absent parent.



Maintenance payments are for the child. Children can claim and sue for maintenance, for example in the form of money or contact with the parent. [Guardianships](#) can also help here. For example, they determine the child's entitlement to maintenance. The guardianships also

support the children in enforcing their entitlement to maintenance in court.

You can find **more information about advance maintenance payments** [at here](#).

You can find the **application** form [here](#).