

DUTCH CHILD BENEFIT



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THE PURPOSE OF CHILD BENEFIT

Bringing up children is very expensive. In the Netherlands, the Sociale Verzekeringsbank (SVB) pays child benefit to help parents cover these costs. The National Child Benefits Act (AKW) sets out on what conditions child benefit is payable. Child benefit is meant for all parents, regardless of income – in other words, your child benefit will not be reduced if your income increases, or increased if your income drops.

WHO CAN CLAIM CHILD BENEFIT?

If you have children and you live in the Netherlands, you can claim Dutch child benefit. You can also claim Dutch child benefit if you work for a Dutch employer in or outside the Netherlands.

HOW TO CLAIM CHILD BENEFIT

If your first child is born in the Netherlands, you will automatically be sent a claim form. If you came to the Netherlands after the birth of your first child, or if you do not live in the Netherlands, you should ask the SVB to send you a claim form.

You have claimed child benefit.

What now?

The SVB will send you a decision, stating how much you will receive per child and why. The decision will also state the commencement date of your child benefit. If you do not agree with the decision, you can request a review.

Children up to 18

Child benefit is for children up to 18. You can also claim child benefit for foster children and stepchildren. To qualify for child benefit, you must bring up and support the child as though it were your own.

WHEN DOES THE CHILD BENEFIT TAKE EFFECT?

For a newborn child, the child benefit payments start in the quarter following the date of birth. If you do not claim child benefit directly after the birth, the child benefit payments may start later. The decision you receive from us will show the commencement date of your child benefit.

AWARDED AND PAID PER QUARTER

The SVB pays child benefit on a quarterly basis. First, we check which conditions you and your children meet. Then we establish the amounts you are to receive. Child benefit is paid into your account after the end of a quarter. The SVB can also pay child benefit into accounts outside the Netherlands, but this takes longer.

How much child benefit will you get?

The SVB establishes the amount for each child separately. The total amount you receive depends on the number and age of your children. Child benefit amounts are adjusted by the government at regular intervals, usually in January and July.

Child benefit amounts as from 1 January 2004

Up to 6 years	€ 175 per quarter
6 to 12 years	€ 215 per quarter
12 years and over	€ 250 per quarter

IF YOUR CHILD LIVES AWAY FROM HOME

If you want to receive child benefit for a child who does not live at your address, we may ask you to provide proof of the costs you incur supporting the child, for example, study costs, rent, insurance contributions, costs of food and holidays. You will then be required to provide a statement of these expenses.

If the costs of supporting a child who lives away from home are very high, you may be able to get extra child benefit. In that case, you will have to meet additional conditions. For example, you will have to prove that you contribute at least € 1,024 per quarter towards the child's support. The SVB may require you to submit documentary evidence of your expenditure. You should therefore keep as much evidence of your payments as possible.

CHILDREN LIVING OUTSIDE THE NETHERLANDS

If you have children living abroad, you will have to meet the following three conditions in order to receive child benefit:

- The child must live in the EU or a country with which the Netherlands has concluded an agreement on the verification of entitlements. (For a list of these countries, contact your SVB office or visit our website).
- You must be able to demonstrate your contribution to your child's support with evidence of payments;
- You do not receive child benefit from the country where your child lives.

WHEN YOUR CHILD TURNS 16

The age of 16 is a significant age when it comes to child benefit. As long as your child is under 16, it does not matter, for the purposes of child benefit, whether

or not he or she goes to school or studies. When your child turns 16, however, you can only continue to receive child benefit as long as the child goes to a regular school, or is incapacitated for work, or is registered with an employment agency as a job-seeker. You must be able to provide documentary evidence of this. As soon as a child of 16 or 17 starts pursuing higher vocational education or goes to university, entitlement to child benefit will end.

Additional rules for children of 16 and over

- You can only receive child benefit if:
 - Your child attends a regular day school
 - Your child is incapacitated for work
 - Your child is officially unemployed
- Your child benefit will end if:
 - Your child goes to university
 - Your child starts pursuing higher vocational education
 - Your child starts working more than 19 hours a week
- Your child is allowed to earn a limited amount of money

YOUR CHILD'S INCOME

Money earned by your child may affect your child benefit entitlement. If your child lives at home and is under 16, it does not matter how much he or she earns. A child of 16 and above, however, may not earn more than a certain amount per quarter. If the child earns more than that amount, payment of child benefit will stop. However, a child is allowed to earn an extra amount in the months of June, July and August. You can find out how much your child is allowed to earn on the SVB web site, under internet service counter, wizards.

You must always inform the SVB about your child's income if he or she starts earning more than € 800 per quarter.

OBLIGATION TO REPORT CHANGES

You must always inform the SVB correctly and promptly of any changes in your or your child's situation. If you receive child benefit, you will have received a special form for notifying the SVB about such changes. The form lists precisely which changes you are required to report, and within what time limit. If you fail to report such a change, the SVB may impose a fine on you.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found on our website www.svb.nl. You can also download other leaflets from the website, such as:

- Child benefit and children living away from home (*Kinderbijslag en uitwonende kinderen*) (available in Dutch, English, German, French, Spanish and Turkish)
- (*Bedragen kinderbijslag en TOG*) (only available in Dutch)

If you do not have access to the internet, feel free to contact one of our offices.

ADDRESSES OF SVB OFFICES

BREDA

++31(0)76 548 50 20
Rat Verleghstraat 2,
4815 NZ Breda

DEVENTER

++31(0)570 50 60 20
Snipperlingsdijk 2,
7417 BJ Deventer

GRONINGEN

++31(0)50 316 90 20
Cascadeplein 5,
9726 AD Groningen

LEIDEN

++31(0)71 512 98 20
Stationsplein 1,
2312 AJ Leiden

NIJMEGEN

++31(0)24 343 10 20
Takenhofplein 4,
6538 SZ Nijmegen

ROERMOND

++31(0)475 36 80 20
Laurentiusplein 8,
6043 CS Roermond

ROTTERDAM

++31(0)10 417 40 20
Posthumalaan 100,
3072 AG Rotterdam

UTRECHT

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Graadt van Roggenweg 400,
3531 AH Utrecht

ZAANSTAD

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Visit our website: www.svb.nl