

Parental Allowance (Elterngeld)

Parental Allowance (Elterngeld) provides families with the necessary flexibility after the birth of a child to give the new family member a good start in life.

Parental Allowance makes it easier for mothers and fathers to temporarily forgo employment or work part-time after the birth of their child, allowing them more time to care for their child.

Contact Your Responsible Office

Since we unfortunately do not have in-house interpreters available, please bring someone with you who can translate if necessary.

Eligibility Criteria for Parental Allowance

Parents are eligible for Parental Allowance if they:

- Reside in Germany or have their habitual residence in Germany,
- Personally care for and raise the child,
- Are primarily responsible for the child and live in the same household as the child,
- Work no more than 32 hours per week. (Note: The previous limit of 30 hours per week has been updated to 32 hours.)

Parental Allowance is available to employed persons, self-employed individuals, unemployed persons, students, apprentices, adoptive parents, and, in exceptional cases, relatives up to the third degree.

Parental Allowance – Key Points

Parental Allowance compensates for the loss of income of the parent who takes care of the child. The amount is calculated based on the income before the child's birth:

- Net income above €1,240 → Compensation rate: 65%
- Net income between €1,000 and €1,200 → Compensation rate: 67%
- (For net income between €1,200 and €1,240, the rate gradually reduces to 65%.)
- Net income below €1,000 → Compensation rate gradually increases to 100%

Parental Allowance ranges from a minimum of €300 to a maximum of €1,800. For multiple births, the allowance increases by €300 per additional child. Families with an older child under 3 years old (or two older children under 6 years old) receive a sibling bonus.

Basic Parental Allowance (Basis-Elterngeld) can be claimed within the first 14 months of the child's life. One parent can receive Parental Allowance for at least two months and up to twelve months. If both parents receive Parental Allowance and experience at least two months of income loss, they are entitled to two additional months of Parental Allowance.

Parents can flexibly divide the monthly Parental Allowance between them. It can be received either consecutively or simultaneously.

While receiving Parental Allowance, parents are allowed to work up to 32 hours per week. (Note: The previous limit of 30 hours per week has been updated to 32 hours.)

Since January 1, 2011, Parental Allowance has been fully considered as income for the calculation of Unemployment Benefit II (ALG II), social assistance, and child benefits.

However, parents who had income from employment before the child's birth benefit from a Parental Allowance tax-free allowance. This allowance corresponds to the income before the child's birth, up to a maximum of €300, and is not counted towards the aforementioned benefits.

Since April 1, 2024, there is no entitlement to Parental Allowance if the eligible parent earned more than €200,000 in the calendar year before the child's birth. From April 1, 2025, this threshold will be reduced to €175,000.

Parental Allowance Plus

Parents can benefit from Parental Allowance Plus. Current information on Parental Allowance Plus, the Partnership Bonus, and flexible parental leave for parents and employers can be found here: [Parental Allowance Plus](#).

Consultation and Application

The legal provisions regarding Parental Allowance are too complex to be fully detailed here. Please contact your responsible Parental Allowance office for individual consultation and find more information on the following website: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMFSFJ).