Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit procedures for Work and Income

This page provides you with information about Orphan's Benefit (OB) and Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB) and links to the Work and Income procedures

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Overview

To receive **UCB**, the caregiver must not be the child's natural parent, adoptive parent or step-parent and because of a family breakdown there is no natural parent, adoptive parent or step-parent to care for the child.

For **OB** the child's parents must either be deceased, cannot be found or they suffer from a serious long-term illness or incapacity, which makes them unable to care for their child.

The links below provide you with more in depth information about the processes for managing OB/UCB applications, client/child change in circumstances and reviews.

Latest Update

1 July 2021 changes

From 1 July 2021, the 12 month eligibility rule is being removed. This means that clients may be able to access OB/UCB for care arrangements that are less than 12 months. Please click here [https://doogle.ssi.govt.nz/community/display/HIYA/Orphan%27s+Benefit+and+Unsupported+Child%27s+benefit] for more information.

Applications

OB and UCB provides non-taxable income support to the caregiver of a child whose parents can't support them.

Qualifications [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/qualifications.html]

Obligations [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/obligations.html]

Multiple Children [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/multiple-children-01.html]

Child Support [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/child-support-01.html]

Child Support process [https://doogle.ssi.govt.nz/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/core-procedures/child-support/info-share-child-support/child-support-pass-on.html]

Commencement Date [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/commencement-date.html]

Rate of Payment [http://doogle/map/deskfile/main-benefits-rates/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit-cur.html]

Payment and Redirection of Benefit [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/payment.html]

When to pay UCB where there is an Oranga Tamariki Order in place [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/oranga-tamariki-order-in-place.html]

Single clients applying for OB or UCB

A single client who applies for or is receiving Jobseeker Support and is also caring for a child who is aged under 14 years who meets the qualifications to receive OB or UCB must meet the qualifications for Jobseeker Support in order to receive this benefit.

Single and Caring for an OB or UCB child [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/single-and-caring-for-an-orphans-or-unsupported-ch-01.html]

Case Manager Interview Guidelines

All applications for UCB must include a case manager interview [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/unsupported-childs-benefit-interview-guidelines.html] with the caregiver to help determine a family breakdown.

Clothing Allowance

The Clothing Allowance provides weekly financial help to people getting of Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit. The Clothing Allowance is non-taxable and paid at the same rate as clothing allowance for children in care. This payment grants automatically when OB or UCB is granted.

Family Breakdown – UCB

All UCB applications require evidence of the breakdown in the child's family. Evidence could be documentation from Oranga Tamariki or another authorised agency. In all other circumstances the caregiver must be referred to an Independent Assessment Provider for a family breakdown assessment.

Breakdown in child's family [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/breakdown-in-the-childs-family.html]

Oranga Tamariki documentation [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/oranga-tamariki-documentation.html]

Care and Protection [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/care-and-protection-issues-01.html]

Family Violence Intervention Programme [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/products-services/work-and-income/family-violence-intervention/index.html]

Integrated Service Response [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/products-services/work-and-income/integrated-service-response/]

Independent Assessment Provider referral process [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/independent-assessment-provider-ucb-14-only.html]

UCB independent provider scenarios (PDF 84.23KB) [http://doogle/documents/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/ucb-independent-provider-scenarios.pdf]

Family Reconciliation Counselling

Work and Income can pay for up to a maximum of 6 FRC sessions where the Independent Assessment Provider has made this recommendation.

Family Reconciliation Counselling (UCB) Referral Prcoess [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/family-reconciliation-counselling-ucb-referral-process.html]

School Start-up Payment

From 13 January 2014, School and Year Start-Up Payment (SAYSUP) were made available for people who care for a child whose parents are unable to do so (i.e. caregivers receiving OB and/or UCB). SAYSUP provides non-taxable, non-recoverable financial assistance to assist with various school related costs or other costs relating to the care of the child.

An annual SAYSUP, ranging from $400 for children under five to $550 for children 14 years and over, is available to caregivers in receipt of UCB or OB. This recognises that there are large regular costs that fall near the beginning of the school year, such as uniforms, school fees, and sports clubs memberships. SAYSUP is either paid automatically or processed by Centralised Services. Case managers should not be granting these payments.

SAYSUP Process [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/how-to-process-the-school-and-year-start-up-payment-granting-or-declining.html]

SAYSUP Payment rates [https://doogle.ssi.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit-tables/school-and-year-start-up-payment-current-01.html]

Establishment Grant

A non-taxable, non-recoverable one-off payment of $350 per child, which is made to carers who are granted OB or UCB for a child. The caregiver, or their spouse or partner can only ever receive the Establishment Grant once for each UCB or OB child. The Establishment Grant payment is made when UCB or OB has been granted

Establishment Grant Introduction [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/establishment-grant.html]

Establishment Grant Payment rates [https://doogle.ssi.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit-tables/establishment-grant-rate.html]

[Establishment Grant process](http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/establishment-grant.html) [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/establishment-grant.html]

Extraordinary Care Fund

The Extraordinary Care Fund can help client's in receipt of the UCB or OB cover additional costs associated with children who are showing promise in a particular area or experiencing difficulty that is significantly impacting on their development.

This page provides an overview of the [Extraordinary Care Fund](http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/extraordinary-care-fund.html) [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/extraordinary-care-fund.html] , its purpose and the process for staff to follow when a client submits an application.

Permanent Care (know as Home for Life) processes

Permanent care, or Home for Life as it's known, involves a legal process to appoint a child's permanent caregiver through the Family Court. Where Oranga Tamariki has had care, custody or sole guardianship of a child but the child is now in the legal custody of a foster carer, they are considered to be in a permanent placement. This is referred to as a Home for life.

The links below provide you with information about the process to follow when clients have been granted parenting or guardianship orders, what supporting documents required and when UCB can be paid and when it can't, depending on the type of order that is in place and section of [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](http://doogle/map/definitions/oranga-tamariki-act-1989.html) [http://doogle/map/definitions/oranga-tamariki-act-1989.html] that applies.

[Permanent Care (Home for Life) : discussions and application](http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/home-for-life.html) [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/procedures-manuals/work-and-income/main-benefits/ob-ucb/home-for-life.html]

[Child Discharged](http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/oranga-tamariki-child-discharged-to-caregiver.html) [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/oranga-tamariki-child-discharged-to-caregiver.html]

[Caregiver Order in Place](http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/oranga-tamariki-order-in-place.html) [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/oranga-tamariki-order-in-place.html]

Changes and Reviews

Caregivers are obliged to advise any changes in theirs and/or child circumstances that may affect their entitlement UCB or OB. You may also review a benefit at any time to ensure that the client still meets the qualifications and is receiving the correct rate of payment. Change to a dependent child's circumstances is generally going to affect the OB/ UCB payment

[Change in client circumstances](http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/changes-and-reviews-jobseeker-support/changes-and-reviews.html) [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/changes-and-reviews-jobseeker-support/changes-and-reviews.html]

[Child Change in Circumstances](http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/changes-and-reviews-ob-and-ucb/child-changes-01.html) [http://doogle/map/income-support/main-benefits/orphans-benefit-and-unsupported-childs-benefit/changes-and-reviews-ob-and-ucb/child-changes-01.html]

Extra Help - OB/UCB caregiver applies for an advance or Special Needs Grant (SNG)

The caregiver who is receiving the OB or UCB may apply for an advance or a Special Needs Grant for items needed for the child or children in their care. This page contains [Helpline tips](http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/helplines-tips/work-and-income/miscellaneous/caregiver-of-ucbob-applies-for-an-advance-or-sng.html) [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/helplines-tips/work-and-income/miscellaneous/caregiver-of-ucbob-applies-for-an-advance-or-sng.html] information for processing applications from a UCB/OB caregiver

Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients

All Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients applying for UCB are managed by a service provider or specialist case worker. If a YPP client makes contact with a contact centre or service centre they must be referred to their provider. The following link provides you with further information on Youth Service Support Unit (YSSU) process for Young Parent Payment (YPP) clients apply for Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB) and the referral process to an Independent Assessment Provider

[UCB application process for YPP clients](http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/products-services/work-and-income/youth-services/unsupported-childs-benefit-application.html) [http://doogle/resources/helping-clients/products-services/work-and-income/youth-services/unsupported-childs-benefit-application.html]

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