

CHILD WELFARE GRANTS in Namibia

compiled by Sister Namibia

THE MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE (MGECW) PROVIDES VARIOUS CHILD WELFARE GRANTS.

You can apply for grants at the MGECW office closest to your home. Offices can be found in: Katima Mulilo, Swakopmund, Mariental, Keetmanshoop, Rundu, Nkurenkuru, Windhoek, Opuwo, Eenhana, Gobabis, Outapi, Oshakati, Tsumeb and Otjiwarongo.

MAINTENANCE GRANT

A maintenance grant is financial assistance that is given to a parent with a child(ren) that are under the age of 18 whose spouse has died. This financial support is for the care of children.

A child is eligible if:

The biological parent caring for a child or children under the age of 18 has lost a spouse to death or the spouse is in prison for six months or longer. The parent applying must fall into one of the following categories: be unemployed, earn less than N\$1 000.00 per month, receive old-age pension or a disability grant. Namibian citizens and permanent residents qualify to apply for this grant.

This grant is available until the child is 18 years old, but will continue until the child is 21 years old if he or she is still in school or busy with studies.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Certified copies of the applicant's birth certificate and ID.
- Certified copies of the child or children's full birth certificates/ confirmation of birth or baptism card.
- A certified copy of the applicant's marriage certificate where applicable.
- The latest school report of each school-going child.
- A certified copy of the spouse's



death certificate in case of death. If the spouse is in prison, a letter from the prison and a declaration from him/her confirming this.

- Proof of the spouse receiving a disability grant or an old-age pension.
- If the applicant is employed, a pay slip with the name, phone number and address of the employer, if not employed, a police declaration.



BENEFITS

N\$ 250.00 per month for each child (with a maximum of six children per applicant or family).

VULNERABILITY GRANT

This grant is similar to the maintenance grant and applies to children where both parents are unemployed, and the same documents are required.

FOSTER CARE GRANT WHO QUALIFIES?

Anyone who undertakes the temporary care of any child found to be in need of care and placed in this person's custody in terms of the Child Care and Protection Act.

A child qualifies if he or she is 18 or younger and where both parents are deceased or cannot be found.

This grant is available until the child is 18 years old, but will continue until the child is 21 years old if he or she is still in school or busy with studies.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A certified copy of the Court Order or the Transfer Order if a child is transferred to another foster parent.
- A certified copy of the child's birth certificate.
- A certified copy of the foster parent's ID (even if there are two foster parents only one ID is required)
- A certified copy of the foster parent's marriage certificate (if applicable).
- A certified copy of the death certificate(s) of the biological parent(s) (if applicable).
- The latest school report.

BENEFITS

N\$ 250.00 per month for each child.

PROBLEMS WITH PLACEMENTS

If a foster parent dies, or if a foster parent and foster child do not get on well, or if any other problem arises, the MGECW should be informed as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

SPECIAL MAINTENANCE GRANT- WHO QUALIFIES?

Children under 16 years old who have a disability.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

- Certified copies of at least one parent's ID and birth certificate.
- A medical certificate from a state medical officer or doctor confirming disability.
- A background report from a social worker.

BENEFITS

N\$ 250.00 per month

NOTE

A child beyond 16 years living with a disability will be referred to the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare where he or she will begin receiving N\$1100 per month on a temporary basis or until death – depending on assessment.

PLACE OF SAFETY ALLOWANCE WHO QUALIFIES?

Any person or place in whose care a child under 18 years of age is placed by a Commissioner of Child Welfare.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A Place of Safety Claim Form, completed and signed by the Magistrate's Office and the claimant.
- A Detention Order from the Magistrate's Court.
- For the first claim, the social worker's background report.

BENEFITS

N\$10.00 per child per day.

Please contact the MGECW office nearest to you for assistance regarding these grants. ♀

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

For health records and medical reports: Contact the Ministry of Health & Social Services

For birth, death and marriage certificates as well as identity documents (ID): Contact the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

For court order for placement in foster care or a place of safety: Contact the Ministry of Justice

For school reports: Contact the Ministry of Education.