

# HELP WITH THE COST OF PRISON VISITS

If you are the close relative or partner of a prisoner and you are in receipt of certain benefits or on a low income you may be **eligible for help with your travel costs** from the Help with Prison Visits service at: [www.gov.uk/help-with-prison-visits](http://www.gov.uk/help-with-prison-visits)

## Who can apply?

A **close relative** is defined as wife, husband, civil partner, natural or adoptive mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, grandparent, step/half brother/sister, step child, step parent or someone who has acted in loco parentis for a significant part of the prisoner's childhood. A partner can be someone in a heterosexual or a same sex relationship with the prisoner.

You can also apply for financial assistance if you meet all other criteria, and you are not a close relative of the prisoner, but you are the **sole visitor** to that prisoner.

You may also be eligible for assistance if you are escorting a qualifying young person or adult to visit someone in prison.

## Who qualifies for help?

To qualify for assistance under the scheme you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Income Based (not contribution based) Job Seeker's Allowance
- Universal Credit (income limit applies)
- Working Family Tax Credit with a disability element
- Working Tax Credit with Child Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit

You may be eligible for help under the scheme if you are not in receipt of any of the above benefits but are on a low income and hold a Health Certificate 2 or 3. Application forms for a Health Certificate 2 or 3 are available.

**For more support and advice** You can get information, advice and support from the Prisoners' Families Helpline by calling 0808 808 2003. The trained advisors can provide advice and information on all aspects of the justice system, from what happens when a loved one is arrested, to visiting a prison, to preparing for release.



**For advice and support on all aspects of arrest, going to court and prison.**

**Helpline opening hours:**

**Monday - Friday 9am - 8pm**

**Saturday and Sunday 10am - 3pm**