



Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999

1999 CHAPTER 30

PART V

WELFARE

CHAPTER I

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Benefits for widows and widowers

55 New allowances for bereaved spouses.

(1) After section 36 of the Contributions and Benefits Act there shall be inserted—

“36A Cases in which sections 37 to 41 apply.

- (1) Sections 37 to 39 and section 40 below apply only in cases where a woman’s husband has died before the appointed day, and section 41 below applies only in cases where a man’s wife has died before that day.
- (2) Sections 39A to 39C below apply in cases where a person’s spouse dies on or after the appointed day, but section 39A also applies (in accordance with subsection (1)(b) of that section) in cases where a man’s wife has died before that day.
- (3) In this section, and in sections 39A and 39B below, “the appointed day” means the day appointed for the coming into force of sections 54 to 56 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999.”

(2) After section 39 of the Contributions and Benefits Act there shall be inserted—

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999, Section 55. (See end of Document for details)

“39A Widowed parent’s allowance.

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) a person whose spouse dies on or after the appointed day is under pensionable age at the time of the spouse’s death, or
 - (b) a man whose wife died before the appointed day—
 - (i) has not remarried before that day, and
 - (ii) is under pensionable age on that day.
- (2) The surviving spouse shall be entitled to a widowed parent’s allowance at the rate determined in accordance with section 39C below if the deceased spouse satisfied the contribution conditions for a widowed parent’s allowance specified in Schedule 3, Part I, paragraph 5 and—
 - (a) the surviving spouse is entitled to child benefit in respect of a child falling within subsection (3) below; or
 - (b) the surviving spouse is a woman who either—
 - (i) is pregnant by her late husband, or
 - (ii) if she and he were residing together immediately before the time of his death, is pregnant in circumstances falling within section 37(1)(c) above.
- (3) A child falls within this subsection if one of the conditions specified in section 81(2) below is for the time being satisfied with respect to the child and the child is either—
 - (a) a son or daughter of the surviving spouse and the deceased spouse; or
 - (b) a child in respect of whom the deceased spouse was immediately before his or her death entitled to child benefit; or
 - (c) if the surviving spouse and the deceased spouse were residing together immediately before his or her death, a child in respect of whom the surviving spouse was then entitled to child benefit.
- (4) The surviving spouse shall not be entitled to the allowance for any period after she or he remarries, but, subject to that, the surviving spouse shall continue to be entitled to it for any period throughout which she or he—
 - (a) satisfies the requirements of subsection (2)(a) or (b) above; and
 - (b) is under pensionable age.
- (5) A widowed parent’s allowance shall not be payable—
 - (a) for any period falling before the day on which the surviving spouse’s entitlement is to be regarded as commencing by virtue of section 5(1)(k) of the Administration Act; or
 - (b) for any period during which the surviving spouse and a person of the opposite sex to whom she or he is not married are living together as husband and wife.

39B Bereavement allowance where no dependent children.

- (1) This section applies where a person whose spouse dies on or after the appointed day is over the age of 45 but under pensionable age at the spouse’s death.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999, Section 55. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) The surviving spouse shall be entitled to a bereavement allowance at the rate determined in accordance with section 39C below if the deceased spouse satisfied the contribution conditions for a bereavement allowance specified in Schedule 3, Part I, paragraph 5.
- (3) A bereavement allowance shall be payable for not more than 52 weeks beginning with the date of the spouse's death or (if later) the day on which the surviving spouse's entitlement is to be regarded as commencing by virtue of section 5(1)(k) of the Administration Act.
- (4) The surviving spouse shall not be entitled to the allowance for any period after she or he remarries, but, subject to that, the surviving spouse shall continue to be entitled to it until—
 - (a) she or he attains pensionable age, or
 - (b) the period of 52 weeks mentioned in subsection (3) above expires, whichever happens first.
- (5) The allowance shall not be payable—
 - (a) for any period for which the surviving spouse is entitled to a widowed parent's allowance; or
 - (b) for any period during which the surviving spouse and a person of the opposite sex to whom she or he is not married are living together as husband and wife.

39C Rate of widowed parent's allowance and bereavement allowance.

- (1) The weekly rate of a widowed parent's allowance shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of sections 44 to 45A below as they apply in the case of a Category A retirement pension, but subject, in particular, to the following provisions of this section and section 46(2) below.
- (2) The weekly rate of a bereavement allowance shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 44 below as they apply in the case of a Category A retirement pension so far as consisting only of the basic pension referred to in subsection (3)(a) of that section, but subject, in particular, to the following provisions of this section.
- (3) In the application of sections 44 to 45A or (as the case may be) section 44 below by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) above—
 - (a) where the deceased spouse was over pensionable age at his or her death, references in those sections to the pensioner shall be taken as references to the deceased spouse, and
 - (b) where the deceased spouse was under pensionable age at his or her death, references in those sections to the pensioner and the tax year in which he attained pensionable age shall be taken as references to the deceased spouse and the tax year in which he or she died.
- (4) Where a widowed parent's allowance is payable to a person whose spouse dies after 5th April 2000, the additional pension falling to be calculated under sections 44 to 45A below by virtue of subsection (1) above shall be one half of the amount which it would be apart from this subsection.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999, Section 55. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) Where a bereavement allowance is payable to a person who was under the age of 55 at the time of the spouse's death, the weekly rate of the allowance shall be reduced by 7 per cent. of what it would be apart from this subsection multiplied by the number of years by which that person's age at that time was less than 55 (any fraction of a year being counted as a year)."

Commencement Information

- II** S. 55 wholly in force at 9.4.2001; s. 55 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 89(1); s. 55 in force for certain purposes at 24.4.2000 and for all other purposes at 9.4.2001 by [S.I. 2000/1047](#), [art. 2\(2\)\(a\)](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999, Section 55.