



**Pension  
Protection  
Fund**

Manager of the Financial  
Assistance Scheme

Protecting people's  
futures



**Payments for  
spouses,  
partners and  
children**



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## Register on our FAS member website

We've developed a secure website for the exclusive use of our members.

Please register as soon as you can because this website is the quickest and easiest way for most people to get information about their payments.

Once you've set up an account, you can do lots of things including updating your personal details and starting your payments if you haven't yet retired.

To register, please go to the website at **[www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers](http://www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers)** and follow the registration instructions. It should only take few minutes.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything included in this booklet, please visit our FAS member website or get in touch with us.

Contact details are at the back of this booklet.

# Introduction

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It's important that our members know what will happen to their FAS payments after their death. With this information, we hope that you can feel comfortable that your spouse or partner, and eligible children, will be looked after.

For beneficiaries of our members, we want you to know what you're entitled to so that you can have some certainty, at what can be a difficult time.

In this booklet we explain when, how much, and for how long FAS payments can be made to surviving spouses, civil partners or relevant partners and any eligible children.

**A relevant partner is someone of either sex who you aren't married to, or in a civil partnership with, but who you live with as if you're married or in a civil partnership.**



# Payments for spouses, civil partners or relevant partners

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Spouses and civil partners are eligible to receive FAS payments following the death of a member, regardless of whether the member's former pension scheme allowed for such payments. You don't need to nominate a spouse or civil partner as a beneficiary for them to be able to receive payments from us after your death.

Where a member's former pension scheme allowed it, a relevant partner will be eligible to receive FAS payments if the member has nominated them as their beneficiary and if they're able to demonstrate that they were living with the member at the time of their death.

Nominating relevant partners can be important. For instance, if the member separated from their spouse but didn't get divorced – and they hadn't nominated their new partner – payments would automatically be made to the spouse. Also, evidence of financial dependence isn't needed where a relevant partner has been nominated.

Where the member's former pension scheme allowed payments to unmarried partners and there's no legal spouse or civil partner at the time of death, we might still make payments to a relevant partner if the member hasn't nominated them.

This can be harder to evidence once the member has died, it will always be better to nominate online at **[www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers](http://www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers)**.



If you have an account on our FAS member website, you can nominate a partner quickly and easily at **[www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers](http://www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers)**.

Alternatively, you can nominate a partner over the phone using the contact details at the back of this booklet. Members should also let us know if they start or end a marriage or civil partnership, or if they want to cancel a nomination.

We'll talk to the spouse, partner or person dealing with the estate of the deceased member to make sure all eligible beneficiaries receive any FAS payments they're entitled to.

If you're receiving FAS payments as a spouse, civil partner or partner of a member, no payments will be paid to any beneficiaries after your death.

### **What eligible spouses, civil partners or relevant partners receive**

We work out how much an eligible spouse or partner will receive as a yearly amount. It's calculated in two different ways depending on whether the original member was a FAS top-up member or a FAS single-payment member.

We explain these two member types on page 4 onwards, but if you're not sure which applies to you, please get in touch with us.

# Top-up members



## Terms explained

**Expected pension** is broadly speaking what the member had built up in their former pension scheme before it started to wind up, revalued to their retirement date and including any relevant increases applied up to the member's date of death.

This is a member whose former scheme secured benefits for them before the scheme wound-up. They may have done this by purchasing the member an annuity, or by transferring the whole value of their available funds to another arrangement. Alternatively, they may have paid the member all of their available funds as a lump sum.

In most cases, we'll pay an eligible spouse or partner one half of 90 per cent of a top-up member's expected pension, less any annuity payable to the spouse or partner.

We also have to account for any lump sums that were paid out of the scheme on the member's behalf.

In most cases, we'll pay eligible children the following:

- where we're also paying a spouse or partner:
- one child – one quarter of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, less any annuity payable to the child.
- two or more children – half of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, less any annuities payable to the children, divided equally between them.
- where we aren't also paying a spouse or partner:
- one child – half of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, less any annuity payable to the child.
- two or more children – all of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, less any annuities payable to the children, divided equally between them.



# Single payment members

This is a member whose former scheme didn't pay out all of their available funds. Instead, when the scheme finished winding-up the funds transferred to the FAS.

In most cases, we'll pay eligible children the following:

- where we're also paying a spouse or partner:
- one child – one quarter of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, or, where it would be a larger amount\*, one quarter of the member's notional pension
- two or more children – half of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, or, where it would be a larger amount\*, half of the member's notional pension, divided equally between them
- where we aren't also paying a spouse or partner:
- one child – half of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, or, where it would be a larger amount\*, half of the member's notional pension

– two or more children – all of the 90 per cent of the member's expected pension, or, where it would be a larger amount\*, all of the member's notional pension, divided equally between them

\* In a very small number of cases we'll pay a different proportion of the member's notional pension, which is matched to what their former scheme would have paid. Broadly, this is possible where the member started receiving payments before 2 April 2010.



## Terms explained

**Notional pension** is our calculation of the annual amount the member's former scheme could have afforded to pay them. This is based on the amount of money calculated and allocated by their former pension scheme to pay their scheme benefits, allowing for the scheme's funding position.

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If a member receives FAS payments early because of ill health, the amount is reduced to reflect that they are paid over a greater number of years. This affects the amount a spouse, civil partner or relevant partner would be able to receive. Their payments would generally be based on the reduced amount.

If a member hasn't started receiving FAS payments at the time of their death, the calculation would be based on the assumption that the member retired immediately before the date of their death, but no early retirement reduction was applied to their benefits.

### **What spouses, civil partners or relevant partners need to do**

Following a member's death, the spouse, partner or person dealing with their estate will need to contact us as soon as possible.

This is important where the member has been receiving FAS payments, because any delays in notifying us would mean that we may continue to make payments after the member's death. We'd then have to recover these payments from their estate.

Once we've been told about a member's death, we'll send a form to the person dealing with their estate.

This form sets out what information we need to be able to make any payments to spouses, civil partners or relevant partners.

In all cases, we'll need to see a copy of the death certificate. Please don't send us the original.

Other documents may be needed, depending on personal circumstances. These may include copies of the following:

- marriage certificate
- civil registration certificate
- decree absolute, or
- dissolution certificate



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If the member had a relevant partner, we'll need the following information:

**If the relevant partner was nominated by the member prior to their death**

- proof that they were living with the member at the time of their death, for example a joint utility bill, joint council tax bill, or bank statement (dated within 6 months prior to the member's death)

**If the relevant partner wasn't nominated by the member prior to their death, and they were living together for at least five years prior to their death**

- proof that they were living with the member at the time of their death, for example a joint utility bill, joint council tax bill, or bank statement (dated within 6 months prior to the member's death)
- proof that they had been living together with the member for five or more years prior to their death

**If the relevant partner wasn't nominated by the member prior to their death, and either there's no evidence available to prove that they were living together for at least five years or they had been living together for less time**

- Proof of interdependency. We'll need to see any of the information below that's available. The more information that can be provided then the easier it will be to determine that there was interdependency:
  - The net income of the relevant partner, the member and any other contributors to household income
  - Council tax and utility bills in joint names (dated within 6 months prior to the member's death)
  - Joint bank/savings accounts providing basic details, for example copies of bank statements (dated within 6 months prior to the member's death)



- Details of the arrangements in place for meeting mortgage repayments or rent, as applicable
- What arrangements were in place for meeting other expenses, listing these where possible
- The proportion of day to day living expenses paid by each party
- Whether there was a mortgage protection policy, and if so whether it was in joint names
- Details of any other life policies
- biological child (this will include children being carried by the mother on the date of the member's death)
- adopted child, or
- a child who can demonstrate they were financially dependent on the member at the time of the member's death

We'll ask the spouse, partner or person dealing with the estate of the deceased member for details of any eligible children. Entitlement is automatic for children and a nomination isn't needed.

### **How long spouses, civil partners and relevant partners will receive payments for**

Once a member's spouse, civil partner or relevant partner starts to receive FAS payments, they'll continue to receive them for the rest of their life.

### **Payments for children**

Following a member's death, any eligible children can receive FAS payments until they no longer qualify.

To be eligible to receive payments, they must be the member's:

They must also be:

- under 18, or
- over 18 and under 23 and in qualifying education, or
- over 18 and under 23 with a qualifying disability

Unless they're in qualifying education or have a qualifying disability, FAS payments will end when a child reaches their 18th birthday.



### **Qualifying education**

Up until the age of 23, children can receive FAS payments if they are studying in a full-time educational or vocational course at a recognised educational establishment, such as a school or college.

They must spend more than 12 hours a week in normal term time either studying, receiving tuition or taking part in exams or practical work.

We'll need the education establishment to confirm that the course meets these qualifying conditions.

If a child stops their studies, they'll lose their right to FAS payments. But, if they resume their studies on another course, they can ask for their payments to start again.

### **Qualifying disability**

Up to the age of 23, children can receive FAS payments if they cannot undertake full-time paid employment due to a disability covered by the Equality Act 2010.

### **What eligible children receive**

We work out what children will receive as a yearly amount. It's calculated in two different ways depending on whether the original member was a FAS top-up member or a FAS single payment member.



When a child is no longer eligible, we'll stop making payments to them. But, if there are other children who are still eligible, the amount they receive will be recalculated in line with the criteria explained. However, payments won't be recalculated in cases where the children were receiving payments from the scheme before it started to wind-up.

If a member hadn't started receiving FAS payments at the time of their death, the calculation would be based on the assumption that the member retired immediately before the date of their death, but no early retirement reduction was applied to their benefits.

### **How we make payment to spouses, partners and children**

Following the death of a member, and once we've identified any eligible spouses, partners and children, we'll write to them to let them know what they're entitled to receive from us.

Generally, entitlement to FAS payments starts the day after the death of the member.

Although we calculate your entitlement as an annual amount, we make payments in monthly instalments, a month in arrears, on the 21st of each month, into a nominated bank or building society account. We'll start making payments once we've received all the information we need, backdated to the date of entitlement. Payments will be made into a bank account which bears the relevant child's name.

For more details on our different types of member and how we calculate their payments, please take a look at our 'When you retire' booklet on our FAS member website.

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### Protecting your data

We take care to handle your personal data in compliance with data protection legislation.

We process your personal data correctly and lawfully, to enable assistance payments to be made to you, to keep you up-to-date with developments and to seek your feedback about ways we could improve our service.

We won't rent, swap or sell your personal data to any other organisation.

You can view our full privacy policy at **[www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers](http://www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers)** or you can request a printed copy of the privacy policy be sent to you by using our contact details.

This booklet is for guidance only. It's necessarily simplified and not a definitive statement of law or entitlement.

Information in this booklet is based on our current understanding of the legislation governing the PPF in force at the time of writing.

Payments will always have to be calculated in accordance with legislation which will, therefore, override in the case of conflict.



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Manager of the Financial  
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**Contact us:**

**FAS Member Services Team**

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Financial Assistance Scheme  
PO Box 287  
Wymondham NR18 8EZ**

Tel: **0330 678 0000** (Monday to  
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FAS Member website:  
**[www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers](http://www.ppf.co.uk/fasmembers)**