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you again!



MATERNITY, PATERNITY AND CHILDCARE BENEFITS



VIDAUS REIKALŲ
MINISTERIJA

One of the most common reasons for returning to Lithuania is a desire to raise children in a known and familiar environment surrounded by close people.

To make your relocation as smooth as possible, here you will find information on the main issues relating to childcare benefits following your return from abroad, maternity/paternity leave and additional support available.

Do you have any questions about returning to or coming to live in Lithuania? Visit the Migration Information Centre's "I choose Lithuania" website at renkuosilietuva.lt, ask burning questions using our live chat, by giving us a call or dropping an email and we will be happy to respond.

Photograph by Aleksej Sarifulin

The leaflet uses works of creative Lithuanians - photographs that capture modern day life and naturalness.



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ENTITLEMENT TO MATERNITY/ PATERNITY AND CHILDCARE BENEFITS

MATERNITY BENEFIT AND MATERNITY LEAVE

Maternity benefit equals 77.58% of the claimant's compensated salary. The minimum monthly maternity benefit may not be below 6 basic social insurance benefits (*bazinė socialinio draudimo išmoka* or *BSI*) applicable in the quarter preceding the date of entitlement. And there is no cap to the benefit.

Maternity benefit will be paid to the claimant as a lump sum for the entire maternity leave, which may vary from 28 to 126 calendar days. The maximum length of maternity leave may be up to 3 years, but no maternity benefit will be paid for the third year.

ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFITS WHEN RETURNING FROM ABROAD

The employment record for maternity/paternity or childcare benefit purposes also includes any employment periods abroad (in EU/EEA members states (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), Switzerland, Ukraine and Belarus). However, the time spent abroad is relevant merely for **entitlement to these benefits to be determined, whereas the rate of the benefits is calculated solely on the basis of income received while working in Lithuania.**

If a person was entitled to maternity/paternity or childcare benefit while living abroad, it is advisable to make enquiries into the conditions for such benefits to be exported to Lithuania.

It is important to know that if a person coming to Lithuania is in receipt of maternity/paternity or childcare benefit abroad, their health cover will be with the foreign country of their departure. It is essential to bring, before your return to Lithuania, proof of health insurance (**S1 form**) in another country entitling to free services in Lithuania. Otherwise you will have to pay for healthcare services provided in Lithuania.

PATERNITY BENEFIT AND PATERNITY LEAVE

Paternity benefit also equals 77.58% of the claimant's compensated salary. The length of paternity leave is 30 calendar days. This leave may be granted at any time before the child turns one.

The minimum paternity benefit is at least 6 BSIs per month, while the maximum compensated salary for paternity benefit purposes may not exceed 2 average national monthly salaries (to be published by Statistics Lithuania on a quarterly basis). The paternity benefit is paid to the claimant as a lump sum.



Entitlement to maternity/paternity and childcare benefits extends to all persons who have at least 12 months' worth of maternity social insurance record in the past 24 months. It is important to note that the person's last job must be in Lithuania.

A person intending to claim maternity/paternity or childcare benefit must contact the local Sodra office online, by post or in person (contacts of local offices can be found at sodra.lt/lt/teritoriniai-skyriai).



TRANSFER OF EMPLOYMENT RECORD FOR BENEFIT PURPOSES

If a person has obtained part of their record for maternity/paternity and childcare benefit purposes in an EU/EEA member state, other than Lithuania, or in Switzerland, they may present proof of their maternity social insurance record (S041 or E104 forms). The person may contact any local Sodra office in relation to these documents. They will need to complete a request for mediation in the recalculation of the sickness and maternity social insurance record.

IF INSURANCE RECORD IS INSUFFICIENT

A pregnant woman who does not have a 12 month employment record in the past 24 months and who is not entitled to maternity benefit will be awarded a one-off lump sum of 6.43 BSIs 70 calendar days before the expected due date.

A one-off lump sum (at the rate of EUR 429 in 2020) is paid for every child born/adopted in Lithuania and declared here. This benefit is awarded if the child and at least either of the parents are permanent residents in Lithuania that either hold Lithuanian citizenship or are foreign nationals.



A person wishing to claim the above benefits must submit their claim to the municipality of their place of residence within 12 months of the date of entitlement.

CHILD CARE BENEFITS AND CHILD CARE MAINTENANCE LEAVE

GENERAL INFORMATION ON MATERNITY AND PATERNITY BENEFITS

An employer must retain the job for an employee on maternity/paternity leave. An employee is required to inform their employer of any planned maternity/paternity leave at least 14 days before the start of the pregnancy and maternity leave. A person on maternity/paternity leave will continue to accrue sickness and maternity social insurance record.

CHILDCARE BENEFITS

Entitlement to childcare benefit extends to either of the child's parents (*adoptive parents*), grandparents or guardians. The benefit may be paid until the child turns one or spread until they turn two (*when claiming the benefit, you will be required to state how long you wish to claim it for as you will not be able to change this afterwards*).

Child benefit may be awarded to either of the parents (adoptive parents) or grandparents. So it is possible to spread this benefit alternately.

Childcare benefit is estimated on the basis of the person's previous salary. If you choose to claim childcare benefit over one year, it will be 77.58% of the claimant's compensated salary; if it is paid over a two-year period, the rate will be 54.31% of the claimant's compensated salary for the first year and 31.03% for the second year.

Childcare benefit may not fall below or go above the thresholds set according to the average monthly salary in the national economy (to be published by Statistics Lithuania on a quarterly basis).

You can make a claim for maternity/paternity or childcare benefits to the local Sodra office of your residence by submitting a claim in writing or online at sodra.lt.

UNIVERSAL CHILD BENEFIT

A child born in Lithuania will be awarded a monthly payment (child benefit). The rate applicable in 2020 is EUR 60. This universal benefit is paid to all children from birth until they turn 18, or 21, where they are enrolled in the general education programme. Child benefit is paid regardless of the family's income. This benefit is awarded by a municipality. Therefore, a claim may be made in person at the municipality of your place of residence or online at spis.lt.

Additional benefits:

- families raising and/or fostering 1 or 2 children are entitled to an additional benefit of EUR 40 per child if the family's monthly income per person is less than 1.5 of the state-supported income (*valstybės remiamos pajamos* or *VRP*);
- families raising and/or fostering 3 or more children or a disabled child are entitled to an additional benefit of EUR 40 per child regardless of the family's income.

Local authorities may also award other benefits:

- childcare benefit for those in training or education;
- child maintenance benefit;
- benefit for multiple births.

For more information, please visit renkuosilietuva.lt/en/child-benefits/