

Guide for pregnant women, parents-to-be and families



The information for pregnant women, expectant parents, and families is written in simple and easy-to-understand language. This means that we use short sentences and avoid difficult words. However, some terms are important for getting along well in Austria and understanding the social system. These terms are underlined in the text and explained in a glossary at the end of this brochure.

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Introduction

There are many things to do during pregnancy and after the birth of a child. For example, parents must submit several notifications to the authorities in order to obtain important documents for their child.

In addition, checkups for mother and child must be scheduled and important decisions made:

Where do I want to have my child?

When do I want to return to work after the birth?

Where should my child be cared for during this time?

To help you cope better in general and financially, you can contact various agencies.

It is important that you know where to get help.

That is why each chapter contains tips, links, and addresses.

The information and links in the guide are subject to change.

Please also check the websites or contact the relevant institutions. Information status: June 2025

1 Pregnancy

First, it must be determined whether you are pregnant. Then you should find out everything you need to know about pregnancy so that you are well prepared for this time and the birth.

1.1 Pregnant?

If a woman has missed her period, she may be pregnant. A pregnancy test or an examination by a doctor can determine whether or not she is pregnant. You can get a pregnancy test at a drugstore or pharmacy.

If the pregnancy test is positive or your period is late, make an appointment with a doctor as soon as possible. The doctor will examine you and determine whether you are pregnant.

The examination is usually carried out by a gynecologist. However, it can also be done by your family doctor, at a hospital, or at a counseling center for pregnant women.

If the doctor confirms that you are pregnant, they will calculate your due date. Sometimes the due date is not determined until a later examination. The doctor will then note this in the parent-child passport and give you confirmation of the expected due date. You will need this confirmation for your employer or health insurance company, for example.



Pregnancy test



The doctor will perform an examination and determine whether you are pregnant.

Notes

HELPFUL TIPS:

If you are pregnant, check with your health insurance company. Check whether you are currently insured. There are advice centers in every federal state that you can contact:

» Austrian Health Insurance Fund (ÖGK)

<https://www.gesundheitskasse.at>

» Social Insurance for the Self-Employed (SVS)

<https://www.svs.at>

» Insurance Institution for Public Servants, Railways, and Mining (BVAEB)

<https://www.bvaeb.at>

Here you will find explanatory videos about the healthcare system in various languages:

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/service/videos/gesundheitsystem/wo-bekomme-ich-hilfe.html>

Everyone who is insured in Austria has an e-card.

With the e-card, people who have health problems or need help can go to a doctor or hospital. Doctors who have a contract with the health insurance fund advise and treat people with an e-card free of charge.



Further information on the e-card can be found here:

<https://www.chipkarte.at>

Medical assistance is also available for people who are not insured:

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/hilfe_und_finanzielle_unterstuetzung_erhalten/2

There are different types of doctors in Austria.

Family doctors are there to help with all health problems and treat illnesses.

Specialists, such as gynecologists, are professionals in specific areas of medicine.

Here is an overview of doctors in the federal states:

<https://www.aerztekammer.at/arztsuche>

Further information on pregnancy can be found here:

Austrian Public Health Portal

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/schwangerschaft/inhalt>

Overview of brochures and forms on pregnancy, birth, and babies:

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/service/broschueren/schwangerschaft-infomaterial>

1.2 What is the (electronic) Parent-Child-Pass? (Eltern Kind Pass)

Every pregnant woman in Austria receives a Parent-Child-Pass, also in case she is not an Austrian citizen.

Currently, the Parent-Child-Pass comes in the form of a yellow small book after a doctor has confirmed the pregnancy. In future, an App will replace this book. By using the App, pregnant women can view all examination results on their smartphone or tablet.

The Parent-Child-Pass is important for preventive health care for pregnant women, infants and young children up to their 5th birthday.

It covers a number of examinations and consultations. All important information and examination results are entered in the Parent-Child-Pass. This allows diseases to be detected and treated at an early stage.

There are **examinations** during pregnancy.

These examinations can be carried out by a gynaecologist, a general practitioner, in a hospital or by a midwife. There are additional examinations and consultations, e.g. at family counselling centres.

Important: These examinations are necessary for a pregnant woman to be entitled to receive childcare allowance (see section 3.5.1). Relevant examinations are highlighted as such in the Parent-Child-Pass.

In future, pregnant women will be able to set a reminder functionality for the examinations in the App. Only if these examinations are carried out on time, the pregnant woman will receive the full childcare allowance. Otherwise, the allowance will be reduced.



During pregnancy,
there are examinations.

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After birth, there are examinations for the child.

Important: In order to receive childcare allowance, some examinations must be carried out on time.

Information about the deadlines is available here:

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/3

Not all Parent-Child-Pass examinations have to be carried out. Nevertheless, all recommended examinations are important, because they can help to detect health problems at an early stage. Parents should bear this in mind when making their decisions.

Parents can view all of their child's examination results in the Parent-Child-Pass. The Pass itself and all included examinations are free of charge. For this purpose, they must be carried out by doctors who have a contract with the health insurance.

You can find more information about the Parent-Child-Pass here: :

www.elternkindpass.gv.at

» Austria's public health portal

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/eltern-kind-pass.html>

» Austria-wide platform

<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de>

Under „Family and Partnership“ you will find everything you need to know about the birth of a child.



**Eltern
Kind
Pass**

After the birth,
there are
examinations
for the child.



Notes

1.3 How can you prepare for pregnancy and the period afterwards?

Pregnancy is a special, sometimes very challenging time. There are various ways to get support during pregnancy and after the birth of your child. Find out more so that you can:

» **receive the right support**

Midwives help during pregnancy, during childbirth, and after the baby is born. You can search for a midwife in your area online. Gynecologists often work with midwives and can help you find one. At the beginning of pregnancy (between the 14th and 20th week) as well as later on (between the 24th and 34th week), you can take advantage of a free midwife consultation.

Every pregnant woman can decide for herself when exactly she wants to seek the help of a midwife.

There are no legal requirements or deadlines.

However, it makes sense to find a midwife early on in your pregnancy so that you can actually take advantage of this support service. Above all, midwives covered by health insurance are quickly booked up. These are midwives who advise you free of charge because they have a contract with your health insurance company.

It is important to note that, depending on the type of birth, your health insurance will cover a different number of home visits before and after the birth (see section 3.2).

» **Be well prepared**

Hospitals, parent-child centers, and midwives often offer courses on birth preparation and pregnancy exercises. These courses usually cost a small fee.

Here's how to find information about courses in your area:

- » From midwives
- » in hospitals
- » at parent-child centers
- » on the Internet



Pregnancy is a special, sometimes very challenging time.



Midwives provide support during pregnancy, during childbirth, and afterwards, once the baby arrives.

Notes

» **Feel well cared for**

Once the baby is born, they will need to undergo a number of examinations at the pediatrician's office.

You should therefore start looking for a suitable pediatrician during your pregnancy.

Expectant parents should find out about the help and support available in good time so that they are well prepared.

You can also ask a doctor directly what you need to bear in mind.

You can also find information about the coming period on the Internet.

Here you will find information on preparing for the birth and the postpartum period:

» **Midwifery care at a glance**

https://www.hebammen.at/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/HebammenberatungUeberblick_2019-3.pdf

» **Search for midwives**

<https://www.hebammen.at/eltern/hebammensuche>

» **Information on birth preparation classes and pregnancy exercises**

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/geburt/geburtsvorbereitung/geburtsvorbereitungskurs>

» **Search for suitable hospitals**

www.Kliniksuche.at



Once the baby is born, some examinations must be carried out by the pediatrician.

Notes

1.4 Where can I find further offers relating to pregnancy and early childhood?

Sometimes pregnant women, parents, and families face difficulties for various reasons. Support and assistance are available, for example, here:

» Family portal of the Federal Chancellery

On this website, you will find information for families as well as help and advice on various topics, such as separation, divorce, or domestic violence, family counseling centers, parent education, and child and youth welfare services.

» Child and youth welfare

Child and youth services is a government agency. There is one in every federal state. It is responsible for dealing with problems within families, such as violence or neglect. The child is then either physically or emotionally unwell. Child and youth welfare services offer help to protect the child. If necessary, they also take legal action.

There are many services offered by child and youth welfare, for example:

- » Family centers run by child and youth welfare services
- » Parent and mother counseling
- » Psychological counseling
- » Mobile family support at home
- » Intensive family support

» Health centers and counseling centers

Health centers and counseling centers for women, girls, parents, and families offer free and confidential information, counseling, and support, for example, on medical, psychological, health, or legal issues.

» Violence protection centers, women's helpline against violence

Every state offers free and confidential help and support for people affected by violence.

» Parent-child centers

Parent-child centers offer support on various topics for pregnant women, parents, and families: for example, courses, counseling, or lectures. There are often breastfeeding groups, baby meetups, or parent-child cafés.



Offers for support and assistance



Information, advice and care

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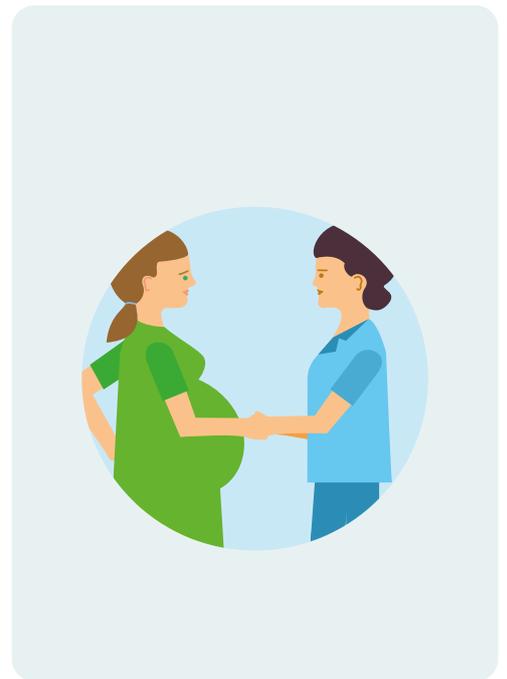
Here, mothers and parents can talk to other mothers and parents about everyday life with a child. Or they can get advice and support from professionals.

» Early support

Early support is available to promote the health of pregnant women, expectant parents, and children. This support is primarily intended for those who are struggling. Family support for expectant parents and families with children aged 0 to 3 is voluntary and free of charge.

There you will receive, for example:

- » Personal counseling
- » Support with administrative procedures
- » Guidance and support with caring for, providing for, and raising your child



HELPFUL LINKS:

Family portal of the Federal Chancellery:

Internet: <https://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/familienportal>

By phone: 0800 240 262 (toll-free from anywhere in Austria), Email: familienservice@bka.gv.at

Brochures from the Federal Chancellery on the subject of family and youth:

<https://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/service/publikationen-aus-dem-bundestkanzleramt/publikationen-zu-familie-und-jugend/broschueren-familie-jugend.html>

Here you will find information on child and youth welfare in your federal state:

» City of Vienna, MA 11: <https://www.wien.gv.at/kontakte/ma11>

» Lower Austria: https://www.noe.gv.at/noe/Jugend/Kinder-_und_Jugendhilfe.html

» Burgenland: <https://www.burgenland.at/themen/soziales/kinder-und-jugendhilfe/>

» Upper Austria: <https://www.kjh-ooe.at/>

» Styria: <https://www.verwaltung.steiermark.at/cms/ziel/75777334/DE>

» Salzburg: <https://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/soziales/kinder-und-jugendhilfe>

» Carinthia: <https://www.ktn.gv.at/Service/Formulare-und-Leistungen/GS-L6>

» Tyrol: <https://www.tirol.gv.at/gesellschaft-soziales/inklusion-und-kinder-und-jugendhilfe/>

» Vorarlberg: <https://vorarlberg.at/-/kinder-und-jugendhilfe>

Here you can search for women's health centers in your area:

Network of Austrian Women's Health Centers

<http://www.frauengesundheit.at>

Here you can search for women's and girls' counseling centers in your area:

Network of Austrian Women's and Girls' Counseling Centers:

www.netzwerk-frauenberatung.at

By telephone: 01 5 95 37 60

Here you can find family and parent counseling centers in your area:

<https://www.familienberatung.gv.at>, www.eltern-bildung.at

Here you will find psychological counseling and support:

Professional Association of Austrian Psychologists (BÖP)

Internet: <https://www.boep.or.at/psychologische-behandlung>

By phone: 01 504 8000 (free telephone assistance Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Email: helpline@psychologiehilft.at

Here you will find the Austrian platform for single parents:

<https://www.alleinerziehende.org>

Here you can find violence protection centers in your federal state:

www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at

Women's helpline against violence:

Internet: www.frauenhelpline.at

By phone: 0800 222 555 (free of charge)

Here you can search for parent-child centers in your area:

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/service/beratungsstellen/gesund-leben/eltern-kind/eltern-kind-zentren.html>

Early support – the regional network in your area:

<https://fruehehilfen.at>

1.5 When and how should you inform your employer about your pregnancy?

Employees are required to inform their employer. This means that if you are pregnant, you must inform your employer. Therefore, inform your employer as soon as you know that you are pregnant. Provide your employer with a doctor's note confirming your due date.

Important: You can decide for yourself when exactly to inform your employer. However, please note that informing your employer is also important for you. From the moment you inform your employer of your pregnancy, the Maternity Protection Act applies to you: for example, you are no longer allowed to work overtime. Your employer is not allowed to terminate your employment during your pregnancy and for up to 4 months after the birth of your baby.

Informing your employer about your pregnancy.



Notes

Here you will find information on how to notify your employer of your pregnancy:

Chamber of Labor

https://www.arbeiterkammer.at/beratung/berufundfamilie/Mutterschutz/Bekanntgabe_der_Schwangerschaft.html

1.6 When and how can you register the birth of your child?

If you are pregnant, you should register as early as possible with the maternity ward of a hospital or a birthing center. You should also discuss a planned home birth with your gynecologist and midwife at an early stage.

Families can often view the maternity ward and all the rooms for the birth in advance. When registering, you should ask what items you need to bring with you for your hospital stay.

Here you will find further information on registering for childbirth and planning a home birth:

Austria-wide platform:

<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/lebenslagen/Ich-erwarte-oder-habe-ein-Kind/was-ich-fuer-die-geburt-zu-beachten-habe>

1.7 What is maternity leave?

Pregnant women are not allowed to work for 8 weeks before the calculated due date and 8 weeks after the birth. Maternity protection applies during this period. Maternity protection also means: absolute prohibition of employment.

Sometimes maternity leave begins earlier: if the health of the mother and/or the health of the child is at risk. This must be determined and confirmed by a specialist. This means: individual prohibition of employment or early maternity leave.



Register at the hospital or birth center.

Notes

Sometimes maternity leave ends later: in the case of a cesarean section, premature birth, or multiple births. In these cases, maternity leave is extended to 12 weeks after the birth. Depending on the situation, it may last even longer. This is also decided by a specialist.

Some types of work are prohibited from the beginning of pregnancy and up to 12 weeks after the birth,
For example:

- » **lifting and carrying heavy objects**
- » **Working with hazardous substances such as mercury**
- » **Piecework**
This means that you are paid according to your performance rather than the number of hours you work.
- » **Working on an assembly line at a prescribed pace**
- » **Work that can almost only be done standing up**

All maternity leave regulations are set out in the Maternity Protection Act.

You can find further information on maternity protection here:

Chamber of Labor

<https://www.arbeiterkammer.at/beratung/berufundfamilie/Mutterschutz/index.html>

1.8 What is weekly allowance?

As soon as maternity leave begins, you will receive financial support from your health insurance fund. This is called weekly allowance.

Pregnant women receive weekly allowance

- » for the 8 weeks before the birth,
- » for the day of the birth, and
- » for the first 8 weeks after the birth.

During this period, you will not receive any money from your employer.

The health insurance fund will check whether you are entitled to weekly benefits. You will receive weekly benefits if you

- » worked before your pregnancy,
- » received unemployment benefits or emergency assistance, or
- » received childcare allowance for another child.



Pregnant women are not allowed to work 8 weeks before the calculated due date and 8 weeks after the birth.



As soon as maternity leave begins, you will receive financial support from your health insurance provider.

Notes

You must apply to your health insurance company for weekly maternity benefits. To do so, you will need

- » confirmation of the expected date of birth
- » a valid bank account with IBAN
- » **either** a confirmation of employment and remuneration
This is a confirmation of your employment. Often, your employer will send the confirmation to your health insurance company themselves. Just ask at your workplace.
- » **or** confirmation that you receive unemployment benefits, emergency assistance or childcare allowance

If you have the baby earlier than the calculated due date, these days will be added to the maternity allowance after the birth.

After the birth of the child, the health insurance company must be informed of the birth. You will then continue to receive weekly benefits. For this you will need

- » the confirmation of birth or the birth certificate
- » The registry office will send the confirmation of birth to your health insurance company.
- » For births in hospital: confirmation of hospital stay
- » In the case of premature birth, multiple births, or a cesarean section: confirmation from the hospital

Important: Make copies of all documents. Submit the copies to your health insurance company and keep the original documents at home.

You can send all documents to the health insurance company by mail or email. Or you can bring them in person.

The amount of weekly allowance you receive depends on

- » How much you earned in the three months prior to maternity leave.
- » How much unemployment benefit or emergency assistance you received.
- » Whether you received childcare allowance for another child.
- » Whether you were marginally employed and self-insured.

You can find more information about weekly benefits here:

- » Austrian Health Insurance Fund
<https://www.gesundheitskasse.at>
- » Chamber of Labor
<https://www.arbeiterkammer.at/wochengeld>



Employment or
Confirmation of
earnings.

After the birth of the
child, the health insurance
company must be
informed of the birth.



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2 The birth

The birth of the child can take place as an inpatient or outpatient in a hospital or at home.

2.1 What is an inpatient birth?

During an **inpatient birth**, you will give birth to your baby in the maternity ward of a hospital. Afterwards, you will receive care and medical attention in the hospital for a few days. This is necessary after a cesarean section, for example. During the postpartum period, you can recover and get to know your child.

2.2 What is an outpatient birth?

In an **outpatient birth**, you give birth to your baby in the maternity ward of a hospital. If the birth goes well, you and your baby will leave the hospital after a few hours. At home, you will be cared for by a midwife and pediatrician. From the day after you are discharged from the hospital until the fifth day after the birth, follow-up care is free of charge.

Here you will find information about the birth process:

Austrian public health portal:

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/geburt/geburtsablauf/inhalt>

2.3 What is a home birth?

A home birth is when you give birth to your baby at home. If you want to have a home birth, talk to your gynecologist and a midwife about it. They will look at your Parent-Child-Pass and decide whether a home birth is possible. If so, the search for a midwife begins. The midwife will care for you during and after the home birth. However, health insurance does not cover all costs. You will only be reimbursed for part of the costs. Ask your midwife for more information.



The birth of the child can take place on an inpatient or outpatient basis in a hospital or at home.



Notes

Here you will find further information on home births:

Austrian public health portal

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/geburt/geburtsablauf/hausgeburt>

2.4 What is an anonymous birth?

In Austria, it is possible to give birth **anonymously** in a hospital. This means that the pregnant woman does not have to give her surname. Anonymous births can take place in any hospital. There, the mother receives medical care and can take advantage of social counseling. In addition, medical care is available before and after the birth.

After the birth, child and youth services take custody of the child and place it with adoptive parents. The mother can come forward up to six months after the birth if she wishes to revoke the adoption. If the mother does not come forward and remains anonymous, the adoption becomes legally binding.

It is also possible to give up a baby anonymously after birth. Many hospitals have a „baby hatch“ or a „baby nest.“ You can place the baby there, and it will then be cared for.

You can find information about anonymous birth here:

» Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt-eines-kindes/2/Seite.080020

» Austrian public health portal

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/geburt/anonyme-geburt-babyklappe.html>



Anonymous births can take place in any hospital.

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3 After the birth

After the birth, it is time for you to familiarize yourself with the new situation. In addition, there are some important things that need to be done.

3.1 What is the postpartum period?

After the birth of your child, the postpartum period begins. During these 6 to 8 weeks, you can recover from pregnancy and childbirth and get to know your baby. Every mother can receive free care from a midwife during these first weeks after giving birth.

3.2 How can you get help during the postpartum period?

After giving birth in hospital, women are entitled to daily home visits from a midwife: from the day after they are discharged from hospital until the fifth day after giving birth. This means that you will receive free support from a midwife at home for five days during the postnatal period. To do this, you must find a midwife who has a contract with your health insurance company. If you have any complaints after that, your health insurance company will cover the costs of further home visits. This is the case, for example, if breastfeeding is not working. A maximum of 7 additional home visits up to 8 weeks after the birth.

Tip:

Start looking for a midwife early on. She can support you from the early stages of pregnancy right through to the postpartum period. It is best to have a midwife you trust to look after you after the birth.

This is often the midwife who has already accompanied you during your pregnancy.

HELPFUL LINKS:

» Information about the postpartum period

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/baby/wochenbett>

» Search for midwives

<https://www.hebammen.at/eltern/hebammensuche>



Every mother can receive free care from a midwife during these first weeks after the birth.

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3.3 What administrative procedures do you need to complete after the birth?

After the birth, you will need to complete some administrative procedures in order to obtain important documents for your child. You will also need these documents to receive social and financial support.

3.3.1 Birth notification

Birth notification means that the birth of the baby is reported to the relevant authority. In this case, the authority is the registry office.

The hospital notifies the registry office that the child has been born. The hospital has one week to do this. The parents do not need to do anything else.

If the child is born at home, this is done by the person who was present at the birth:

- » the doctor or
- » the midwife

The parents receive the birth notification and must submit it to the registry office. The registry office can then officially issue the birth certificate.

3.3.2 Birth certificate

The birth certificate contains:

- » the name and gender of the child
- » the names of the parents
- » the time and place of birth

Parents can obtain the birth certificate free of charge from the registry office in the municipality or district where the baby was born. They can apply for the birth certificate directly at the registry office or online. Online applications can be made via a digital baby point. Some hospitals offer a special service: you can obtain the birth certificate on the spot.



After the birth, you will need to complete some administrative procedures to obtain important documents for your child.



Notes

You must submit the following documents no later than one week after the birth in order to obtain a birth certificate for the child:

- » Written declaration of the chosen first name
This means that you must announce the child's first name in writing. This is already stated in the birth announcement.
- » If the parents are married: the parents' marriage certificate
- » If the parents are not married: the mother's birth certificate and, if available, the mother's most recent marriage certificate
- » Proof of the dissolution or invalidity of the marriage or registered partnership
- » Proof of the parents' nationality
- » Proof of the parents' main place of residence if they live abroad
- » Birth certificate, if no birth notification has been issued yet

HELPFUL LINKS:

- » Information and link to Digital Babypoint
<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/landingpages/geburt.html>
- » Information on reissuing a birth certificate or international birth certificate
https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/egovernment_moderne_verwaltung/4/Seite.2210010
- » Brochures from the Federal Chancellery on the subject of family and youth:
<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/service/publikationen-aus-dem-bundeskanzleramt/publikationen-zu-familie-und-jugend/broschueren-familie-jugend.html>

3.3.3 Health insurance

The child is covered by the parents' insurance. If the child is ill, they will be examined by a doctor and receive medical treatment. The doctor will need the child's e-card for this. Every child receives their own e-card with their own social security number by post.

The registry office informs the insurance company about the birth of the baby. The parents do not need to report anything here.

General information about the e-card can also be found in chapter 1.1.



Every child receives their own e-card with their own social security number by mail.

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3.3.4 Registration of residence

In Austria, there is a general obligation to register. Parents must report their child's place of residence within 3 days of leaving the hospital.

You can register your place of residence as follows:

- » at the registry office
- » at the municipal office
- » at the municipal authority
- » via the Digital Babypoint on the Internet

To register your residence, you must fill out a form. You will then receive a registration form for the child.

Tip:

You can complete the birth notification and residence registration at the same time.

To do this, fill out the registration form while you are still in the hospital.

The documents will be sent to the registry office.

You can then pick up the birth certificate and registration form there after your hospital stay.

Ask at your hospital or the relevant registry office for more information.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- » Registration form for residence registration
<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/formsearch/form/233>
- » Information on registering a baby's residence
https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt-eines-kindes/3/1/Seite.080200

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3.3.5 Proof of citizenship

The Austrian citizenship certificate states that a person is an Austrian citizen. When a baby is born in Austria, the citizenship of the mother and father is important.

The baby will receive Austrian citizenship

- » if the mother is an Austrian citizen,
- » if the parents are married and only the father is an Austrian citizen,
- » if the parents are not married and only the father is an Austrian citizen.

In this case, however, the father must acknowledge paternity, or a judge must determine that he is the father. This must be done within 8 weeks of the birth.

The baby does not receive Austrian citizenship,

- » if the mother and father are not Austrian citizens.

The baby will then receive the citizenship of the mother and/or father. This depends on the citizenship rules in the parents' countries of origin. To do this, the parents must go to the respective embassy.

Persons without Austrian citizenship can apply for Austrian citizenship if they have been residing legally and continuously in Austria.

Certain requirements must be met for this.

Here you will find information on how to acquire Austrian citizenship:

Granting of Austrian citizenship:

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-services/leben-im-ausland/staats-und-unionsbuergerschaft/erwerb>

You can obtain proof of Austrian citizenship for your child from the registry office or online via the Digital Babypoint.



When a baby is born in Austria, it is important to know the citizenship of the mother and father.

Notes

You can apply for the certificate free of charge until the child's second birthday. You will need the following documents:

- » The child's birth certificate
- » Child's registration form
- » Parents' photo ID

Important: Depending on the situation, you may need **additional documents**. If the parents are married:

- » Marriage certificate
- » Proof of Austrian citizenship

If the parents are now divorced, but the baby was born while the parents were still married:

- » Proof of citizenship of the parent who has custody
- » If available: divorce certificate
- » if available: death certificate of the spouse

If the parents are not married, there are two possibilities:

1. The mother is an Austrian citizen
 - » Mother's birth certificate
 - » Proof of the mother's Austrian citizenship
2. The father is an Austrian citizen
 - » Father's birth certificate
 - » Proof of the father's Austrian citizenship
 - » Acknowledgment of paternity

This must take place within 8 weeks of the birth.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- » Requirements for acquiring Austrian citizenship:
<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/staats-und-unionsbuergerschaft/erwerb>
- » Information on embassies and search for foreign representations:
<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/botschaften-konsulate/suche-nach-oesterreichischen-vertretungen/>
- » Information on dual citizenship:
<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-services/leben-im-ausland/staats-und-unionsbuergerschaft/doppelstaatsbuergerschaft>
- » Further information on citizenship:
https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/menschen_aus_anderen_staaten/staatsbuergerschaft/Seite.260100



Depending on the situation, you may need additional documents.

Notes

3.3.6 Acknowledgment of paternity

In these cases, the biological father can acknowledge paternity:

- » if the parents are not married.
- » if the husband is not the father of the child.

This is called voluntary acknowledgment of paternity.

This means that the name of the biological father is entered on the baby's birth certificate.

The father can acknowledge paternity before or after the birth.

To do so, he must sign a document in person:

- » at the registry office
- » at the child and youth welfare office
- » at a notary's office or at the district court The mother is informed of the acknowledgment of paternity.

The mother can file an objection with the court within two years.

This means that she must announce there if she does not want to do so.

In some cases, paternity is determined by the court, for example

- » if a man suspects that he is the father of the child and wants to have this determined,
- » if the presumed father does not voluntarily acknowledge paternity.

To do this, an application must be submitted to the court.

Acknowledgment of paternity is a prerequisite for the child to receive child support or to inherit anything from the father later on.



The father can acknowledge paternity before or after the birth.

Acknowledgment of paternity is a prerequisite for the child to receive child support or inherit from the father later on.

HELPFUL LINKS:

» Voluntary acknowledgment of paternity

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt-eines-kindes/3/1/1/Seite.082400

» Determination of paternity by a court

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt-eines-kindes/3/1/1/Seite.082402

» Objection to the recognition of paternity

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt-eines-kindes/3/1/1/Seite.082403

Notes

Notes

3.3.7 Determination of custody

Custody means that the parents are responsible for the child. This means that until the child reaches the age of 18, they are responsible for

- » the child's upbringing,
- » care,
- » legal representation,
- » the administration of the child's assets,

If the parents are married, they have joint custody. If they are not married, the mother has sole custody.



Custody means that the parents are responsible for the child.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- » Brochure on custody and children's rights in various languages

<https://www.justiz.gv.at/service/familienrecht/obsorge-und-kontaktrecht/broschuere-obsorge-und-kinderrechte.ec.de.html>

- » Custody of both parents

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familie-und-kinderfuersorge/obsorge/Seite.234001

- » Sole custody of one parent

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familie-und-kinderfuersorge/obsorge/Seite.234001

- » Child advocate as a trusted person for children

<https://www.justiz.gv.at/service/familienrecht/obsorge-und-kontaktrecht/kinderbeistand.25c.de.html>

- » Right of access, formerly visiting rights

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familie-und-kinderfuersorge/obsorge/Seite.234006

- » Participation and duties of a stepparent

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familie-und-kinderfuersorge/obsorge/Seite.234003

- » Family court assistance

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familie-und-kinderfuersorge/obsorge/Seite.234002

- » Cross-border disputes over child custody

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familie-und-kinderfuersorge/obsorge/Grenzueberschreitende-Obsorgestreitigkeiten-in-der-EU

Notes

However, unmarried parents can apply for joint custody at the registry office.

If parents divorce or no longer live together, both parents retain custody. The parents must agree in court which household the child will mainly live in.

However, the mother or father can also apply for sole custody. Or they can apply to have one parent's custody restricted to certain matters.

The court decides on custody

- » if one parent moves out or the parents divorce and cannot agree within a certain period of time,
- » if one parent applies for sole custody.

3.3.8 Passport

If the family wants to travel abroad, the child needs their own passport.

You can apply for a passport for your child at a specific authority, such as the district administration office. In Vienna, you can do this at the municipal office. In some federal states, this can also be done at the local council. Ask at your local council.

The child must be present when you apply for the passport.

You must bring the following documents with you:

- » Photo ID of one parent
- » The child's birth certificate
- » Proof of the child's citizenship
- » Passport photo of the child

Please note the format requirements: passport photo in portrait format, size 35 × 45 mm

The photo must not be more than six months old.

- » Birth certificate, parents' marriage certificate
- » Proof of custody

The first passport for your child under the age of 2 is free of charge. The passport will be sent to you within a week. It is only valid for a few years and must then be renewed.



The first passport for your child under the age of 2 is free of charge.

Notes

Pregnant?



Medical examination



DUE DATE is calculated



Examinations of the pregnant woman



WORK

Report pregnancy, confirmation of employment and remuneration



HOSPITAL
Find a hospital for the delivery



BIRTH PREPARATION



PAEDIATRICIAN



Examinations
of the child

Birth!



Hospital
or at home



MATERNITY PROTECTION



8 weeks
before birth

MIDWIFE



Pre- and
postnatal care

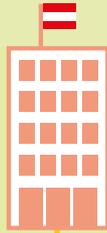
AT HOME



Postpartum care,
follow-up care Midwife



**REGISTRY OFFICE
MAGISTRATE**



Birth certificate Registration
of residence Proof of
citizenship Recognition of
paternity,
Guardianship

e-Card for child
comes home



EMBASSY



Non-Austrian
citizenship



Apply for weekly allowance,
childcare allowance



DAY CARE CENTER
KINDERGARTEN



Registration



TAX OFFICE



Family allowance
Family time bonus
Other allowances
and support



WORK

Notification of parental leave
Family time bonus Fathers,
parental leave, parental
part-time work

Here you will find information about passports for children:

Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/persoenliche_dokumente_und_bestaetigungen/reisepass/Seite.020450

3.4 How can childcare be arranged?

After the birth, mothers and fathers should be able to get to know their baby in peace. That's what parental leave is for. As soon as you want to return to work, you can take parental part-time leave. Is it almost time for your child to start kindergarten? Then start looking for a suitable place in good time.

3.4.1 Parental Leave

After the birth of a child, the mother and father are entitled to parental leave. This is why it is also called parental leave. To be eligible, you must be employed by a company.

During parental leave, one parent does not go to work but looks after the baby. Instead of a salary or wage, they receive childcare allowance (see section 3.5.1).

Who is eligible for parental leave?

Both mothers and fathers can take parental leave.

However, parental leave is not available to self-employed persons, students, housewives, or househusbands.

Parental leave can be switched between the mother and father twice. This means that a total of three periods of parental leave are possible. For example, it can be divided up as follows:

1st period of parental leave: mother,

2nd period of parental leave: father,

3rd period of parental leave: mother

Important: Please note that the mother and father cannot be on parental leave for the same child at the same time. They may only overlap briefly when switching, by taking one month of parental leave together. However, this is only possible during the first switch, and the parental leave is then reduced to 23 months.



After the birth of a child, the mother and father are entitled to parental leave.



Notes

How long can you take parental leave?

You are entitled to parental leave until one day before your child's second birthday. This is a maximum of 24 months during which you cannot be dismissed. You can agree on a longer parental leave period with your employer in writing.

Parental leave begins after maternity leave, i.e., 8 weeks after the birth. For the mother, parental leave can also begin after vacation or sick leave. Parental leave must last at least 2 months.

How and where do you have to announce parental leave?

Parental leave must be agreed upon by the mother or father or both parents with their respective employers.

This agreement must be made in writing and be verifiable.

This can be done, for example, by registered letter. This can be tracked, and it is possible to determine when it was sent and when it arrived.

In addition, there are notification deadlines for various situations:

1. Parental leave: The mother takes parental leave immediately after maternity leave.

You must notify your employer of your parental leave during maternity leave. This is possible up to 8 weeks after the birth of your child.

1. Parental leave: The father takes parental leave immediately after the mother's maternity leave. You must notify your employer of the parental leave no later than 8 weeks after the birth.

2. and 3. Parental leave: The mother and father take turns taking parental leave. You must notify your employer of each period of parental leave three months before it begins.

Your employer must provide you with written confirmation stating the start date and duration of your parental leave. The confirmation must be signed by your employer and the respective parent.

This allows parents to prove that they are not taking parental leave at the same time (see above – one month).



Parental leave begins after maternity leave, i.e. 8 weeks after the birth.

Notes

Can parental leave be extended?

Parental leave can also be extended. The mother or father on parental leave must notify their employer of this no later than 3 months before the end of the parental leave. They must also indicate how long the parental leave will continue (see above – maximum until the day before the child's 2nd birthday).

Can you go to work during parental leave?

During parental leave, the parent on leave may work on a marginal basis. This is only possible if the monthly earnings do not exceed the marginal earnings threshold.

You can find more information about parental leave here:

» Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/arbeit_beruf_und_pension/Karenz-und-Mutterschutz/elternkarenz_und_elternzeit/Seite.3590007

» Minor employment during parental leave

<https://www.usp.gv.at/themen/mitarbeiter-und-gesundheit/einstellung-mitarbeiter-und-arten-der-beschaefigung/geringfuegig-beschaefigte.html>



Under certain conditions, mothers and fathers are entitled to parental part-time work.

3.4.2 Parental part-time work

Mothers and fathers are entitled to parental part-time work. This means that you can return to work with fewer hours after your parental leave, for example. Parents who have not taken parental leave can also take parental part-time work.

What do you need to bear in mind when taking parental part-time work?

Requirements and regulations

Mothers and fathers are entitled to parental part-time work in the following cases:

The father or mother must live in the same household as the child or have custody. They must have worked for the company for 3 years without interruption. The company must have more than 20 employees. Otherwise, other rules apply.

» Both parents can take parental part-time leave at the same time.

However, each parent may only take parental leave once per child. If one parent is on parental leave for the child, the other cannot take parental leave for the same child.

Notes

Rights and obligations between the parent and their employer:

- » You must agree parental part-time work with your employer.
Specify employer: start date, duration, weekly hours, working hours

- » Working hours must be reduced by at least 20 percent. For example, if you work 40 hours per week, this means 8 fewer hours. If the hours remain the same, the working hours must change.

This means, for example, that you start an hour later each day.

- » You must work more than 12 hours per week.

- » The employer must agree to parental part-time work. The employer can voluntarily agree to a different number of hours: for example 10 hours per week.

- » If the mother or father was already working part-time before the birth of the child, the weekly hours for parental part-time work must be reduced further.

- » Mothers and fathers on parental part-time work are then entitled to return to working the same number of hours per week as before parental part-time work. If you previously worked 40 hours per week

- » Employers and mothers or fathers all have the following right: they can all request once that parental part-time work ends – or that it is changed.

This must be done in writing and no later than 3 months before the end of the planned parental part-time work.

If the parental part-time work lasts less than 3 months, then at least 2 months before the end of the parental part-time work.

Start and duration

- » For mothers, parental part-time work can begin at the earliest after maternity leave.

- » Parental part-time work must last at least 2 months.

- » You can take parental part-time leave until your child's 7th birthday. In some cases, it can be longer—for example, if the child cannot start school until later.

- » Parental part-time work can end earlier for the mother or father if they take parental leave for another child.

Notes

In addition, there are the following reporting requirements for various situations:

- » For parental part-time work immediately after maternity leave:
 - Notification by the mother during maternity leave
 - Notification by the father no later than eight weeks after the birth of the child

- » If parental part-time work is to start at a later date:
 - Notification at least 3 months before the desired start of parental part-time work

- » For parental part-time work of less than 3 months:
 - If one parent takes parental leave for less than 3 months immediately after maternity leave: The other parent must notify their parental leave while still on maternity leave.

Important: You must notify the authorities of parental part-time work in writing: The start date, duration, weekly hours, and working hours must be included.

HELPFUL LINKS:

» Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/arbeit_beruf_und_pension/Karenz-und-Mutterschutz/elternkarenz_und_elternteilzeit

» Information on parental part-time work

<https://www.sozialministerium.gv.at/Themen/Arbeit/Arbeitsrecht/Karenz-und-Teilzeit/Elternteilzeit.html>

» Chamber of Labor parent calendar

https://elternkalender.arbeiterkammer.at/?mtm_campaign=Elka&mtm_kwd=Own&mtm_source=Koophelp&mtm_medium=CC&mtm_content=V1%20

Notes

3.4.3 Nursery and kindergarten

Nurseries care for children up to the age of 3. Children can attend kindergarten from the age of 2½ or 3.

When and how can you register your child?

If you want your child to be cared for in a nursery or kindergarten, you should register them as early as possible.

You can register your child at public kindergartens from birth. The registration period usually ends a few months before the child is due to start attending the nursery or kindergarten. The main registration period is between November and December. If you register your child during this period for the coming year, you have a good chance of securing a suitable place.

Note: You can register your child at private kindergartens even before they are born. However, there is a registration fee for this.

Where you can register your child:

- » at the municipal office
- » at the city council
- » at private institutions
- » directly at the kindergarten

The documents you need for registration depend on the childcare facility. The type of registration also varies. Depending on the facility, it can be done with or without a form, in person, in writing, or electronically.

It is best to check directly with the facility or the relevant authority.

What costs will you incur?

Registration for a place in a nursery or kindergarten is free of charge. Once your child has been allocated a place, you will normally have to pay a monthly fee.

The amount of this contribution varies depending on the municipality, local authority, or care facility. Under certain circumstances, you may pay less. The costs vary from state to state. Please contact the relevant authority for more information.



At public kindergartens, you can register your child from the birth.

Notes

There is a free kindergarten year throughout Austria: in the last year before school, your child can attend kindergarten part-time free of charge. That is 20 hours per week. Lunch is not free.

What are your obligations?

Children who have reached the age of 5 by August 31 must attend kindergarten half-days from September to June. This is mandatory in Austria. School holidays are excluded from this requirement. In addition, a maximum of 5 weeks' vacation is permitted during this period.

You can find information on childcare here:

Austria-wide platform

<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/lebenslagen/Ich-bin-für-die-Erziehung-eines-Kindes-verantwortlich/Wo-Kinder-betreut-werden>



Children who have reached the age of 5 by August 31 must attend kindergarten half-days from September to June.

3.5 What financial assistance is available?

3.5.1 Childcare allowance

Every person who is registered in Austria is entitled to childcare allowance after the birth of their own child. This also applies to people who are not working or are not compulsorily insured.

Childcare allowance is paid to the parent who is the primary caregiver and is on parental leave (see section 3.4.1).

However, this parent must also meet additional requirements:

- » The parent is entitled to family allowance for the child and receives the family allowance.
- » The parent lives with the child in one household.
Both have the same primary residence.
- » The parent and the child live in Austria.
- » The parent and the child are legally resident in Austria.
- » All necessary Parent-Child-Pass examinations have been carried out. These consist of 5 examinations during pregnancy and 5 examinations of the child.
- » The additional income limit has been complied with.

Notes

Notes

» If the mother and father do not live together, the parent must have custody of the child and receive family allowance. (For custody rights, see section 3.3.7)

There are two types of childcare allowance:

1. Flat-rate childcare allowance

In this case, you have a childcare allowance account. This account contains a lump sum for the entire parental leave period.

Who is eligible?

Everyone is eligible for flat-rate childcare allowance, including women and men who were or are not employed or compulsorily insured. These include, for example, housewives and house-husbands, students, or people in marginal employment.

How much do you receive?

The amount paid per day depends on the length of the leave. In 2025, the shortest option is 41.14 euros per day. The longest option is 17.65 euros per day.

How long will you receive it?

You can receive the flat-rate childcare allowance for 365 to 851 days from the date of the child's birth. If both parents take parental leave, this can be up to 1063 days.

What if you need further financial assistance?

Families with very low incomes can apply for additional benefits. In cases of hardship, the duration of childcare allowance payments can be extended.

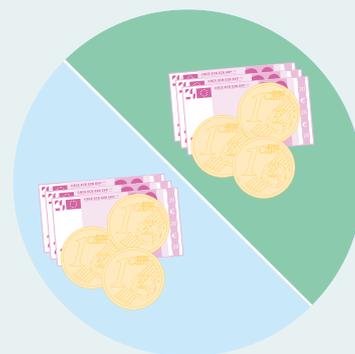
2. Income-dependent childcare allowance

In this case, childcare allowance depends on your income.

Who is eligible?

Only the following persons can receive income-dependent childcare allowance: Persons who have worked in Austria in the 182 days prior to the birth of the child. In addition, they must have been covered by health and pension insurance through their work.

During these 182 days, they must not have received any unemployment insurance benefits.



There are 2 types of childcare allowance.

Notes

This includes, for example, unemployment benefits, emergency assistance, or continuing education allowances. A two-week interruption of work is possible during this period. This means that you may not have worked for up to 14 days during this period. If you are currently working and become ill or take vacation during this time, it does not count as an interruption.

How much will you receive?

How much you are paid depends on the parent's earnings before parental leave. In 2025, this is as follows: you will receive a minimum of €41.14 per day and a maximum of €80.12 per day.

How long will you receive it?

Income-dependent childcare allowance can be claimed until 365 days from the birth of your child. If both parents take parental leave, it can be up to 426 days.

What else do you need to bear in mind for both types?

Mothers and fathers on parental leave can also earn a small additional income with both types.

You should apply for childcare allowance at this point:

- » You can apply for childcare allowance from your social security provider at the earliest on the day of birth.
- » Parents of adopted and foster children can only apply for it from the day the child is taken into care.

Important: You can only receive childcare allowance retroactively for up to 182 days. Therefore, submit your application immediately after the birth or after taking the child into care. This is the only way to ensure that you receive the full childcare allowance to which you are entitled.

In this case, you will receive additional financial assistance:

There is also a **partnership bonus**. The partnership bonus is paid to mothers and fathers who have shared childcare responsibilities almost equally, for example 50:50 to 60:40.

In addition, the parents must have received childcare allowance for at least 124 days. This entitles them to an additional €1,000 on top of the childcare allowance. That is €500 per parent.

You can apply for the partnership bonus together with your application for childcare allowance. Each parent must submit a separate application to their social security provider.



Mothers and fathers on parental leave can also earn a small additional income with both types.

Notes

This is the agency that pays out the childcare allowance. You can also submit an application later. However, you must do so within a certain period of time. Please check with your social security agency.

HELPFUL LINKS:

» Information on childcare allowance can be found on the Family Portal of the Federal Chancellery and via the free childcare allowance info line: <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie/kinderbetreuungsgeld.html>

By phone: 0800 240 014, Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Brochures from the Federal Chancellery on the subject of family and youth:

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/service/publikationen-aus-dem-bundeskanzleramt/publikationen-zu-familie-und-jugend/broschueren-familie-jugend.html>

» Childcare allowance online calculator

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie.html#willkommen>

» Requirements for entitlement to childcare allowance

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/3/1/Seite.080620

» 2 types of childcare allowance

<https://www.gesundheitskasse.at/cdscontent/?contentid=10007.867463&portal=oegkportal>

» Information on applying

<https://www.sozialversicherung.at/cdscontent/?contentid=10007.820905&portal=svportal>

» Partnership bonus

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/3/2/Seite.080631



Family allowance is financial assistance for parents.

3.5.2 Family allowance

Family allowance is financial assistance for parents. You can use this money to buy clothes, diapers, baby food, and so on. Parents receive family allowance for each child. Parents always receive family allowance, regardless of whether they are working, unemployed, or earn a lot. The family's center of life must be in Austria.

If the parents live together with the child in one household, the mother usually receives the family allowance. However, the mother can also waive her right to it, in which case the father receives the family allowance. If the parents do not live in the same household, the parent with whom the child lives receives the family allowance.

Notes

How much will you receive?

Family allowance depends on the age and number of children. In 2025, you will receive € 138.40 per month for each child from birth.

You can find out how much family allowance you will receive here:

» Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familienbeihilfe

» Family allowance calculator of the Federal Chancellery

<https://services.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/familienbeihilfe-rechner/familienbeihilferechner>

» Family allowance calculator of the Chamber of Labor

<https://familienbeihilfe.arbeiterkammer.at>

Note: The amount of family allowance depends on the age of the child. Parents also receive more family allowance if they have several children.

If you receive family allowance for three or more children, you can apply for a supplement:

» Requirements for the multiple-child supplement

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familienbeihilfe/Seite.080713



Family allowance depends on the age and number of children.

How do you apply for family allowance?

You do not need to apply for family allowance separately when your child is born. The tax office will check all the requirements and inform you of your entitlement. Family allowance is transferred to the parents' account. If any information is missing, you will be asked to provide further details.

Note: If the child was not born in Austria, you must apply for family allowance. To do this, you must fill out a form. The application can also be submitted at any time later. However, you will then only receive family allowance retroactively for the last 5 years from the date of application.

You are entitled to family allowance for every child under the age of 18. Under certain conditions, you can receive family allowance until 24th birthday of the child. Receive family assistance. In exceptional cases, this is also possible until the 25th birthday. You receive more family allowance for children with disabilities – but only if they have a disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

Notes

HELPFUL LINKS:

» General information on family allowance

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie/familienbeihilfe.html>

or

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familienbeihilfe

» Family allowance for children with permanent residence in the EU/EEA or Switzerland

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie/familienbeihilfe/familienbeihilfe-kinder-staendigen-auf-enthalt-in-eu-ewr-ch.html>

» Increased family allowance for children with disabilities

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie/familienbeihilfe/erhoehte-familienbeihilfe.html>

or

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/familienbeihilfe/Seite.1220330

3.5.3 Family time bonus for fathers

Fathers can take family time immediately after the birth of their child. This means that fathers do not work for a maximum of one month after the birth in order to be with their family. During this time, fathers receive the so-called family time bonus instead of their salary.

Family time can last 28, 29, 30, or 31 days. This is referred to as a family month. You can only receive the family bonus for the days of family time.

How much money will you receive?

The family time bonus amounts to 54.87 euros per day for births from January 1, 2025. This amounts to a maximum of 1,679 euros in total. If the father takes parental leave later and receives childcare allowance, the childcare allowance is reduced by the family bonus. This means that you will receive less childcare allowance. The duration of the payment will not change.

Fathers can apply for the family time bonus under the following conditions:

» The parents receive family allowance for the child.



Fathers can take family leave immediately after the birth.

Notes

- » The center of life for both parents and the child is in Austria.
- » Both parents and the child live in the same household and have the same primary residence.
- » They are taking family time.
- » You have worked continuously for a company for the last 182 days. During this period, you are not entitled to any benefits from unemployment insurance during this period. This includes, for example, unemployment benefits, emergency assistance, or further training allowances. A two-week break from work is possible during this period.
- » For non-Austrians: You are legally resident in Austria.

How do you apply for financial assistance?

The father must apply for the family time bonus. To do so, you must fill out an application form. You then submit the application to your health insurance provider. The application must also state how many days of family time you are claiming. You can specify between 28 and 31 days. This information cannot be changed later.

When will you start receiving the family time bonus?

The family time bonus begins at the earliest when the mother and child leave the hospital after a birth in hospital. If the child is admitted to hospital alone for medical reasons or has to stay in hospital, contact your health insurance company.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- » Information on the family time bonus
https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/Seite.080623
- » Information from the Austrian Social Insurance Institution
<https://www.sozialversicherung.at/cdscontent/load?contentid=10008.638296&version=1632292686>
- » Application form for the family time bonus
<https://www.sozialversicherung.at/cdscontent/load?contentid=10008.638293&version=1632292686>
- » Online application for family bonus
www.meinesv.at or www.finanzone.at



The father must apply for the family time bonus.

Notes

3.5.4 Further financial assistance and support for families

3.5.4.1 Sole earner or single parent tax credit

The sole earner or single parent tax credit helps families in which

- » only one parent works.
These are single-income earners.
- » Only one parent is raising the child.
These are single parents.

Sole earners who are entitled to the sole earner deduction

- » are liable for tax and have at least one child,
- » have been married for more than 6 months or live in a registered partnership or cohabitation,
- » do not live separately from their spouse or partner,
- » and their spouse or partner earns less than €6,000 per year.
All income is taken into account here. This means, for example, that weekly benefits are included in this amount. Tax-free income such as unemployment benefits is not included.

Single parents who are entitled to the single parent tax credit,

- » are liable for tax and have at least one child,
- » do not live with their spouse or partner for more than 6 months of the year,
- » have received child tax credit for your child or children for more than 6 months of the year (see section 3.5.4.2).

How much money will you receive?

The sole earner or single parent tax credit amounts to per year:

- » with one child: 601 euros
- » with two children: 813 euros
- » with three children: 1,081 euros
- » for each additional child, you receive an additional 268 euros.



Further financial assistance and support for families.

Notes

Here you will find further information on the sole earner or single parent tax credit:

Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/6/Seite.080720#Alleinverdiener

3.5.4.2 Child tax credit

The child tax credit is a tax credit for children. This means that parents pay less tax. If you receive family allowance, you are entitled to the child tax credit.

You will receive the amount together with your family allowance. You do not need to apply for this.

It does not matter how much you earn or how much tax you pay: in 2025, the child tax credit will be € 70.90 per child per month.

You can find more information about the child tax credit here:

Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/6/Seite.080720#Kinderabsetzbetrag

3.5.4.3 Maintenance allowance

If you pay maintenance for your child who does not live in the same household, you are entitled to the maintenance allowance. This applies to every month that you pay maintenance. However, this is only possible if you pay taxes and do not receive family allowance for the child. The maintenance allowance can be claimed on your employee tax assessment or income tax return.

The monthly maintenance allowance is:

- » for the first child: 37 euros
- » for the second child: 55 euros
- » for the third and each additional child: 73 euros



If you receive family allowance, you are entitled to on the child tax credit.

Notes

You can find more information about the maintenance allowance here:

Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/6/Seite.080720#Unterhaltsabsetzbetrag

3.5.4.4 Family Bonus Plus

The Family Bonus Plus is a tax deduction of €2,000 per child per year. You can receive this until the child reaches the age of 18. After the child's 18th birthday, the Family Bonus Plus is reduced to €700 per year if family allowance is received for this child.

The Family Bonus Plus can be paid either by the employer or by the employee. In this case, you will receive the amount together with your earnings. Alternatively, you can claim the deduction when filing your employee tax return. The Family Bonus Plus applies to children in Austria. For children in the EU, the EEA, and Switzerland, the Family Bonus Plus is increased or reduced. The amount varies depending on the country.

You can find more information about the Family Bonus Plus here:

» Family portal

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/familienportal>

» Austria-wide platform

https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/steuern/arbeitnehmer_veranlagung/steuertarif-steuerabsetzbetraege/familienbonus-plus.html



The Family Bonus Plus is a tax deduction of 2,000 euros per child per year.

Notes

3.5.4.5 Benefits and support in the federal states

Some federal states and municipalities offer additional subsidies and financial assistance for families.

For example: The city of Vienna and some other federal states offer family allowances. This is how they support families with low incomes.

There is also a family pass. This is offered by the federal states and provides families with discounts on leisure activities. The family pass may have different names in different federal states. The requirements for the family pass vary from state to state.

Aid organizations also offer support with household chores and childcare during the time in hospital and the first few weeks at home. These include, for example, the Caritas family assistance service, Volkshilfe Austria, and Hilfswerk Austria.

Sometimes the costs are covered in full or in part by federal states and municipalities.



Some federal states and municipalities offer additional subsidies and financial assistance for families.

Here you will find information about offers from the federal states:

» Family allowance, application for a family pass
https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/6/Seite.080750

Here you will find support services offered by aid organizations:

» Caritas family assistances
<https://www.caritas.at/hilfe-angebote/familien-kinder>
» Volkshilfe Austria
<https://www.volkshilfe.at/volkshilfe-im-ueberblick>
» Hilfswerk Austria
<https://www.hilfswerk.at/oesterreich/kinder-jugend>

Notes

3.5.5 Child support

If the child and one parent or both parents do not live in the same household, the child is entitled to child support.

This is also known as alimony. The parents can agree on the amount between themselves. Alternatively, it can be determined by a court. The child support must only be spent on the child. The parent who does not live in the same household as the child must pay child support to the other parent.

From their 18th birthday onwards, the child can request to receive the child support directly. The amount is then transferred to the child.

In any case, the money belongs to the child. Therefore, a parent cannot simply waive the maintenance.

The amount of child support depends on the parents, namely their assets, income, education, ability to work, and the job market situation. The child's needs are also taken into account, including their age, aptitudes, abilities, and development opportunities. The amount can be reduced if the parent who does not live with the child in the same household cares for the child much more often.

You can find more information on child support here:

» Austria-wide platform

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/finanzielle-unterstuetzungen/4



The maintenance should only be spent on the child.

Notes

Dictionary

Some terms are underlined in this brochure.

These underlined terms appear more frequently and are either
» difficult terms that are explained here, or
» terms for which there are other words that have the same meaning.

Here you can read what the underlined words mean.

Outpatient

Outpatient is the opposite of inpatient. Outpatient means: not tied to a specific location. If you seek outpatient medical care, you are only in the hospital temporarily and do not stay in a ward. In the case of an outpatient birth, the mother leaves the hospital shortly after giving birth.

Employee assessment

This is a tax return for employees. It allows you to claim back taxdeductible amounts for the previous year. This applies to maintenance allowances, for example. If you pay maintenance, you will receive a certain amount back for each month retrospectively when you complete your employee tax assessment. At the beginning of the year, you can submit the application in person or online to the tax office. However, a tax return may also result in additional payments.

Authority, administrative procedure

An authority is a large office of the state. Each authority has different tasks.

Authorities are responsible for ensuring that important matters are dealt with or implemented for citizens. An authority may have the task of issuing documents or identity cards.

However, it may also be responsible for ensuring that citizens receive financial support, such as family allowance, care allowance, or unemployment benefits.

You therefore go through the administrative process when you need confirmation, a signature, or something to be done by an authority. Some people also refer to an authority as an office. In Vienna, this is often referred to as a municipal department.

e-card

This is a small green card that contains important information about your health insurance. For example, your name, social security number, and health insurance provider.

You can use the e-card to access various services.

Doctors who have a contract with the health insurance company advise and treat people with an e-card free of charge.

Income tax return

This is a tax return. Self-employed persons, for example, must submit this. At the beginning of the year, you can submit this application in person or online to the tax office.

You will then receive a refund for the deductible amounts for the previous year. This is the case, for example, with the maintenance allowance.

You will receive this refund for each month retrospectively when you complete your income tax return.

However, a tax return may also result in additional payments.

Minimum income threshold, marginal employment

Minor employment means that you only work a few hours per week and earn no more than a certain amount, which will be €485.85 in 2022.

In this case, you are not covered by health insurance or pension insurance: this is known as compulsory insurance.

The marginal employment threshold is often linked to requirements for subsidies or insurance.

Family doctor

A family doctor is your point of contact for general health problems. Family doctors are also called general practitioners.

If you are ill, you should first consult your family doctor. He or she will prescribe medication or write you a sick note if you are not feeling well.

Your family doctor can also refer you to another doctor if necessary. Specialists such as gynecologists are professionals in specific areas of medicine.

Health insurance

Health insurance covers the costs of certain health services. If you are employed and earn more than a certain amount, you are covered by health insurance. The health insurance companies are called:

- » Austrian Health Insurance Fund, or ÖGK for short
- » Insurance Institution for Public Servants, Railways, and Mining, or BVAEB for short

If you are self-employed, you are insured with the Social Insurance Institution for the Self-Employed, or SVS for short.

Health insurance covers some or all of the costs. This applies, for example, to

- » Doctor's visits,
- » hospital stays,
- » medication,
- » therapies

Photo ID

Photo ID is a document that confirms your identity, such as a passport, identity card, or driver's license.

Photo ID contains a photo of you and important information about you.

Menstruation

A woman has bleeding every month. This bleeding is called menstruation. Some women also refer to it as their period, menstrual cycle, or days.

Parent-Child-Pass

Every pregnant woman in Austria receives a mother-child passport. It contains health information about the child.

The mother-child passport and many of the examinations listed in it are also important for receiving certain benefits.

Custody

Custody refers to all the duties and rights that a parent has towards their child. In the case of sole custody, either only the mother or only the father is responsible for the child until their 18th birthday.

Legal residence

Legal residence in Austria means that a person is allowed to stay in Austria and can prove this. This is also a prerequisite for receiving certain benefits from the state.

The following persons are legally resident:

- » Citizens of the EU or citizens of the EEA. EEA stands for European Economic Area. However, they need a registration certificate. This can be applied for at the relevant authority. This proves that you are legally in Austria.
- » Third-country nationals with a residence permit.
In order to obtain a residence permit, you must have your stay in Austria approved by an authority.
- » Persons entitled to asylum
These are people who are seeking protection in Austria. Their application for asylum has been approved. Therefore, they are allowed to stay here legally.
- » Persons entitled to subsidiary protection who work and do not receive basic benefits or minimum income support
These are people who are seeking protection in Austria and are working. Their application for asylum has been rejected. However, they cannot leave the country because their health and lives would be at risk in their country of origin. They can remain in Austria until a certain deadline.

Inpatient

Inpatient is the opposite of outpatient. Inpatient means: confined to a specific location. If you are cared for and treated in a hospital ward, this is an inpatient stay. In the case of an inpatient birth, you stay in the hospital for a few days.

Maintenance, child support

Child support is paid by the father if he lives separately from the mother and child. He must then provide financial support for the child every month. Some people also refer to this as alimony.

Postpartum

The postpartum period is a specific time after birth: the mother can recover, get to know her child, and seek advice from a midwife.

Earnings

If you go to work, you receive money every month. This money is also called earnings, income, or remuneration.

There are two types of earnings:

» **Wages**

Wages are paid to workers.

These are people who work in a bakery, for example.

» **Salary**

Employees receive a salary.

These are people who work in an office, for example.

Additional income limit

This is a certain amount that a parent who receives childcare allowance is allowed to earn in addition per year. They are not allowed to exceed this amount. Otherwise, they will have to pay back the money.

There are two types of childcare allowance. Each type has its own additional income limit. How much you can earn each year therefore depends on which type of childcare allowance you receive.

Abbreviations

This brochure contains a number of abbreviations. Here you will find the full terms:

BVAEB:

Insurance institution for civil servants, railways, and mining

EU:

European Union

EEA:

European Economic Area

MA:

Magistrate Department

ÖGK:

Austrian Health Insurance Fund

SVS:

Social Insurance for the Self-Employed



 Bundesministerium
Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit,
Pflege und Konsumentenschutz

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Länder sowie Kranken- und Pensionsversicherungsträger finanziert.



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Publisher: Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, National Center for Early Intervention. Created by the National Center for Early Intervention with the involvement of mothers and family counselors from Early Intervention. On behalf of the former Federal Ministry of Health, Care, Social Affairs, and Consumer Protection, financed by preventive funds from the Federal Health Agency. Vienna 2022

(update: Oktober 2025) Grafik: Katrin Pflieger

Manufacturer: Print Alliance HAV Produktions GmbH,
2540 Bad Vöslau

