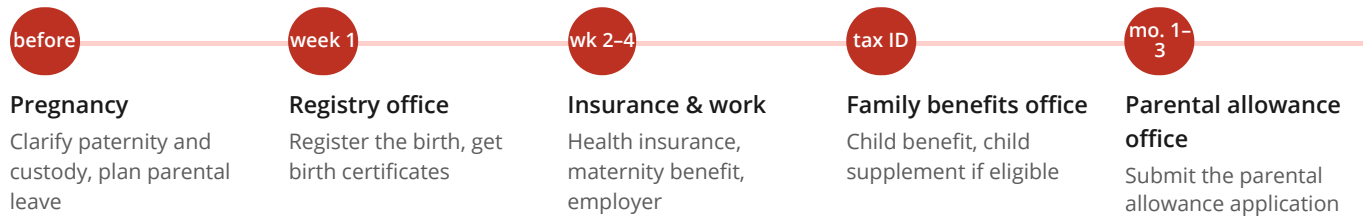


After the birth: all applications and deadlines

What to do when, where and with which documents in Germany – to tick off. Many benefits are only paid on application and only for a limited time retroactively.

As of October 2026

1 The order at a glance



2 In the first days

- ☐ **Register the birth with the registry office (Standesamt) within 1 week**
If the baby is born in hospital, the hospital registers the birth. After a home birth, you register it yourself.
- ☐ **Get birth certificates**
Certificates for parental allowance and maternity benefit are often free of charge – order them at the same time. Child benefit usually needs no certificate.
- ☐ **Not married? Acknowledge paternity and make a joint custody declaration**
Paternity: youth welfare office (Jugendamt) or registry office.
Custody declaration: youth welfare office (free) or notary.
Both are possible before the birth.
- ☐ **Inform your employer**
Tell them the date of birth; for the employer's top-up to maternity benefit, show the birth certificate.

3 In the first weeks

- ☐ **Register your child with health insurance**
Statutory: apply for family insurance (Familienversicherung). Private: register with a parent's insurer no later than 2 months after the birth – then without health check or waiting period.
- ☐ **Complete maternity benefit (Mutterschaftsgeld)**
Send the birth certificate to the health insurance fund (or the Federal Office for Social Security); you need the certificate on maternity benefit for the parental allowance application.
- ☐ **Notify parental leave (Elternzeit)**
mother: 1 week after birth
So that it follows maternity protection without a gap. The other parent: 7 weeks before it starts.
- ☐ **Wait for the child's tax ID**
It arrives automatically by post after registration at the registry office. You need it for the child benefit application.

Tip: Create a folder "Baby – applications" and file copies of all applications with the date you sent them. If the authority has questions, you have everything to hand.



Apply for parental allowance

einfach-elterngeld.de/en/parental-allowance/apply-for-parental-allowance · Detailed explanations, calculators and examples online.

All information carefully checked, without guarantee. The decision of the responsible authority is what counts.

4 Benefits: where, by when, how much

Benefit	Where to apply	Retroactive?	Amount 2026 (guide value)
Parental allowance (Elterngeld)	Parental allowance office of the federal state	max. 3 months of life	65–67 % of net income, €300–1,800 (basic)
Child benefit (Kindergeld)	Family benefits office (Familienkasse)	max. 6 months	€259 per child per month
Maternity benefit (Mutterschaftsgeld)	Health insurance fund or Federal Office for Social Security	Apply with the certificate of the expected due date, ideally before maternity protection	Health insurance up to €13 a day (Federal Office one-off up to €210), plus employer's top-up to previous net pay
Child supplement (Kinderzuschlag)	Family benefits office	no – only from the month of application	up to €297 per child, for families with low income
Advance maintenance (Unterhaltsvorschuss)	Youth welfare office	max. 1 month before the month of application	€227 (age 0–5) if the other parent pays no or too little maintenance
Housing benefit (Wohngeld)	Housing benefit office of the municipality	no – from the month of application	have it recalculated: more household members

5 Don't forget later

- ☐ **Child-raising periods (Kindererziehungszeiten)** – have them recorded by the German Pension Insurance Form V0800; earns pension points for the first 3 years of life.
- ☐ **Check tax class and allowances**
Single parents: tax class II with relief amount.
- ☐ **Look for a daycare place (Kita)**
Legal entitlement from the 1st birthday; note the municipality's registration deadlines.
- ☐ **Report income during parental allowance**
If you work while receiving it, report the income to the parental allowance office.
- ☐ **Tax return for the year with parental allowance**
Mandatory from €410 of parental allowance or maternity benefit a year.

6 Document folder

- ☐ Birth certificates
- ☐ Tax IDs of parents and child
- ☐ Payslips for the 12 months before maternity protection
- ☐ Certificate on maternity benefit and employer's top-up
- ☐ Self-employed: latest tax assessment or profit calculation
- ☐ ID cards and bank details
- ☐ Employer's confirmation of parental leave

Less paperwork: With einfach-elterngeld.de you plan your parental allowance, upload documents and receive the completed application form of your federal state – including a cover letter listing the documents.



Parental allowance calculator and application

einfach-elterngeld.de/en/calculator · Detailed explanations, calculators and examples online.

All information carefully checked, without guarantee. The decision of the responsible authority is what counts.