



## Stage Two:

Money matters when you have children

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**As your family grows and your children get older, the more they cost to feed, clothe, educate and entertain. You may also need childcare and when your children go to school there will be many expenses to take care of. Careful planning will pay off and help you to manage your money and stay in control.**

## Stage Two: Money matters when you have children

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### Money planning

#### Creating your family budget plan and managing new expenses

There are many predictable expenses that come with having young children, such as nappies, equipment, childcare and school expenses, which you will need to work into your family budget. So it's a good time to review your finances by completing a spending diary and an income and expense check before you work out a new budget. Make sure to keep your budget up-to-date as your children grow and their needs change.

#### Tip!

Include a review of your overall household spending – our economiser tool on [www.nca.ie](http://www.nca.ie) works out what you are spending compared to other households on key areas such as groceries, energy and mobile phones, as well as helpful tips on how to cut back. Our cost comparisons on [compare.nca.ie](http://compare.nca.ie) compare banking products from the main providers and show you how you can make savings. Get the best value and don't pay more than you have to. You may also be able to negotiate discounts, particularly on insurance products.



































### Action Plan Contd.

Have you sought maintenance from your child's other parent?

In most cases, it is the parent with main custody of the child who may look for child maintenance. If you and your child's other parent cannot come to an agreement about maintenance you may apply to the court to order the other parent to pay child support. You can contact your nearest Citizens Information Centre for more information or log onto [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

The Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC) have produced a number of useful information leaflets which can be downloaded from the FLAC website [www.flac.ie](http://www.flac.ie)

### Getting help

There are a number of organisations out there that can help with information, advice and support services if you are a lone parent:

#### OPEN

The national network of one-parent family support groups. OPEN assists member groups in providing information, services and supports for one-parent families.

[www.oneparent.ie](http://www.oneparent.ie)

Telephone: 01 814 8860







### Action Plan Contd.

#### Dealing with your debts

- Consider any outstanding non-mortgage debts that you and your former partner hold jointly, including any credit cards, loans or car finance agreements. Talk to your solicitor if you need to.
- If your debts are in joint names, you are jointly responsible for them and missing repayments will affect your **credit rating**.
- List out all the debts and decide who is to pay what.
- Contact the lenders and let them know what you have decided to do.
- If debts are not met, a lender can take you both to court.

The Family Mediation Service offers support to separating couples in negotiating an agreement for separation, including the financial aspects such as maintenance as well as a shared parenting plan. See the information on family mediation service under the Services section on [www.fsa.ie](http://www.fsa.ie). The Citizens Information website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) also has a section on separation and divorce which has information including legal options following marital breakdown, applying for divorce, family home, guardianship and a lot more. You can get more information on personal finances and your rights on our site [www.ccpc.ie](http://www.ccpc.ie)

## Illness/Family bereavement

Unfortunately, family illness and bereavement requires making financial decisions. Find out what assistance is available to you to help you through this difficult time.

### Family illness

If you or your partner is faced with illness, you should consider taking the following steps:

#### Action Plan

Check out your entitlements

Find out whether you are entitled to some of the following benefits or assistance:

- Medical Card
- GP Visit Card
- Mobility/disability allowance
- Invalidity pension
- Illness/injury/health and safety benefit
- Drugs payment scheme
- Long term illness scheme
- Treatment benefit scheme

Contact the Department of Social Protection [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) to find out what types of social insurance and social assistance you may be entitled to if a family member is sick. You can also get information from your local Social Welfare Office.

## Action Plan Contd.

### Insurance

If you or your partner have become ill or had an accident, check through your insurance policies to see if you can make a claim that will pay out a lump sum for the type of illness (for example critical/serious illness cover) or that will provide a taxable income if you can no longer work due to illness (for example **income protection/permanent health insurance**).


- You should also let the insurance company know of any changes to your or your partner's medical condition, as it may affect any claim you might need to make.
- If you are travelling, check your policy – you may have medical cover.

### Pension

- Some employers provide an enhanced ill-health pension for their employees if they have to retire early due to bad health – you should check with your employer what your entitlements are.
- Check your retirement benefits – they may be lower because your contributions to your pension are stopping early and the money in your pension fund will have to last longer.
- You may be able to draw on your **personal retirement savings account (PRSA)** or **personal pension plan** if your situation is more permanent.

Action Plan Contd.	
Working while caring for an ill relative	Find out if your employer can help you, for example by allowing you to work flexibly. You may be entitled to Carer’s leave or special leave arrangements.
Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check to make sure you are paying the right tax. Contact the Revenue Commissioners on <a href="http://www.revenue.ie">www.revenue.ie</a> (list of lo-call local numbers available on their website).</li> <li>• Notify the Revenue Commissioners of any changes to your situation. For example if your partner is ill and can no longer work, this may affect how much tax you pay.</li> </ul>
Dealing with family finances	You may have to manage on a lower or single income, if you or your partner is unable to work due to illness. Use the section on Family budgeting on page 17 for help on drawing up a new budget.

**Tip!**  
 The Citizens Information website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) has a dedicated ‘Health’ section that has lots of information on healthcare in Ireland and includes information on children’s health.





## Family bereavement

The Citizens Information Board [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) has an information guide on bereavement which deals with the practical and material matters that arise following a death and a list of agencies that may be able to help you with support and counselling.

The table below outlines some things to consider during this difficult time.

Action Plan	
Make sure you can access your accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the deceased person's money is in a joint account it is easier to get access, although you may have to await the grant of probate.</li> <li>• Money in other personal accounts are usually part of the deceased's estate and are distributed in the normal way.</li> </ul>
Assess the tax implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your partner dies you will need to let Revenue know as it may affect how much tax you pay.</li> <li>• The executor or administrator of your partner's estate will sort out the deceased person's tax affairs.</li> <li>• Contact Revenue on <a href="http://www.revenue.ie">www.revenue.ie</a> (list of lo-call local numbers available on their website).</li> </ul>
Contact solicitor and executors to administer the estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact solicitors directly about the deceased person's estate.</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.citizensinformation.ie">www.citizensinformation.ie</a> has information on the rights a person may have to a portion of the deceased person's estate. This depends on whether or not they have made a will. See page 56 for more information on wills and estate planning.</li> </ul>

**Action Plan Contd.****Rework your family finances**

- Look at the list of family bills and other day to day matters to ensure everything is covered, if certain financial affairs were previously looked after by your partner.
- Review your insurance cover to make sure you and/or your family still have appropriate cover through existing policies. Take out new insurance cover where needed.
- Check the Department of Social Protection website [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) or your local Social Welfare Office to make sure you are receiving all the financial assistance/benefits you are entitled to. They can include:
  - bereavement grant;
  - death benefits under the Occupational Injuries Scheme;
  - payment for six weeks after death; and
  - payments for widowed people
- When you have the time, you should revisit the family budget and work out a new budget to take account of your changed circumstances. Use the section on Family budgeting on page 17 earlier in this stage for help on drawing up a revised budget.

**Review your Life Insurance policy**

- If an insurance policy names you as the beneficiary, then you may claim it directly from the insurance company. You will need a death certificate.
- If there is no named beneficiary, then the proceeds of the policy form part of the overall estate of the deceased and are distributed with the other assets.

### Action Plan Contd.

Check any occupational and personal pensions

- If the deceased was a member of an **occupational pension scheme**, you should contact the employer or former employer or the scheme administrators to find out if there is a pension for the spouse and/or children.
- If the deceased had a personal pension, the value of their plan passes on to their estate for the benefit of their dependents, depending on the rules of the plan.
- You can get more information on pensions on [www.ccpc.ie](http://www.ccpc.ie) or on the Pension Authority's website [www.pensionsauthority.ie](http://www.pensionsauthority.ie)

### My to-do list



- Revise your family budget.
- Start a weekly/monthly saving plan, including an emergency fund.
- Start planning to protect you and your family against drop in income, illness, bereavement or other changes in family circumstances.