



Compassionate Care Leave ***Being There For Your Dying Loved One***

The Government of Canada introduced Compassionate Care Leave in January 2004. This special Benefit will be available to Employment Insurance eligible workers who must be absent from work to provide support to a family member who is gravely ill with a serious risk of death.

Who is Eligible?

- As of January 4, 2004, you can receive compassionate care benefits up to a maximum of 8 weeks if you have to be absent from work to provide care or support to a gravely ill family member with a significant risk of death within 26 weeks. If you are unemployed and on EI, you can also ask for this type of benefits.
- To be eligible for compassionate care benefits you must apply and show that your regular weekly earnings from work have decreased by more than 40%;, you have accumulated 600 insured hours in the last 52 weeks or since the start of your last claim.

Who is Considered Family?

You can receive compassionate care benefits to care for one of the following family member:

- your child or the child of your spouse or common-law partner;
- your wife/husband or common-law partner*;
- your father/mother;
- your father's wife/mother's husband;
- the common-law partner of your father/mother

*Common-law partner means a person who has been living in a conjugal relationship with that person for at least a year.

Sharing Compassionate Care Leave Benefits

- You can share the 6 weeks compassionate care benefits with other members of your family who must also apply and be eligible for these benefits.
- The number of weeks that you will share with other members of your family should be decided and agreed between each family member requesting these benefits at the time you apply for compassionate care benefits

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Hospice Greater Saint John * 385 Dufferin Row * Saint John, New Brunswick E2M 2J9
Tel: (506) 632-5593 E-mail: info@hospicesj.ca Website: www.hospicesj.ca



Proof

- When requesting compassionate care benefits you must provide a medical certificate as proof that the ill family member needs care or support and is at significant risk of death within 26 weeks.
- The medical certificate, called "Medical certificate for Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits" (available for download and print in pdf format) must be completed and signed by a medical doctor or other medical practitioner authorized to treat the gravely ill family member.
- Please note that the fees requested by the doctor are entirely at your own expense.
- Only one medical certificate is required per gravely ill family member within the 26-week period whether one person claims the total of 6 weeks of benefits or whether they are shared.

How Do I Apply?

- To receive compassionate care benefits you must submit an EI application on-line or in person at your local Human Resources Development of Canada (HRDC) office.
- You should apply as soon as you stop working.
- You must request your Record of Employment (ROE) from your last employer.

What Information/Documents Do You Need?

- Your Social Insurance Number (SIN);
- A Record of Employment (ROE) from each job held over the last 52 weeks;
- Personal identification such as your driver's license, birth certificate or passport if you are applying in person;
- Your complete bank information, as shown on your cheque or bank statement (or a voided personalized blank cheque from your current account).
- Information about the ill family member, such as first and family name, date of birth and residential address;
- A medical certificate for compassionate care benefits.

When Will I Receive the First Payment?

- You must serve a 2-week unpaid waiting period before your EI benefits begin to be paid. Generally, this period is the first 2 weeks of your claim.
- If we have all the required information and if you qualify for benefits, your payment will usually be issued within 28 days of the start date of your claim
- The basic benefit rate is 55% of your average insured earnings. The maximum EI benefits is \$413 per week

For More Information About Compassionate Care Benefits

Call 1-800-622-6232 or visit www.canada.gc.ca

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