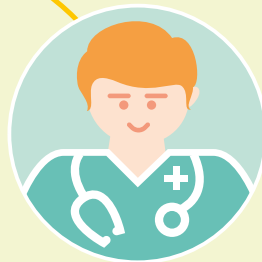


# Guide for pregnant women, parents-to-be and families



The information for pregnant women, parents-to-be and families is written in simple and easy-to-understand language. This means: we use short sentences and avoid difficult words.

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# Introduction

There are many things to do during pregnancy and after child birth. For example, parents have to make some notifications to authorities to get important documents for their child.

In addition, medical examinations for mother and child have to be planned and important decisions have to be made:

Where do I want to give birth?

When do I want start working after the birth?

Where should my child be looked after during this time?

There are various agencies that can help you to cope better in general and also financially. It is important that you know where to get help. That is why there are helpful tips, links and addresses in every chapter of this brochure.

This guide is a support for pregnant women, parents-to-be and families: so that you are all well-prepared on time for the new challenges.

# 1 Pregnancy

First, it must be clarified whether there is a pregnancy. Then you should inform yourself about everything important regarding the topic of pregnancy, so that you are well prepared for the pregnancy as well as the birth.

## 1.1 Pregnant?

If a woman's menstrual period has stopped, she may be pregnant. You can find out whether you are pregnant or not by taking a pregnancy test or going to a doctor for an examination. You can get the pregnancy test at a drugstore or pharmacy.

If the pregnancy test is positive or the menstrual period has stopped: Make an appointment with a doctor as soon as possible. The doctor will do an examination and determine if you are pregnant.

The examination is usually carried out by the gynaecologist. However, this can also be done by a general practitioner, in hospital or at a counselling centre for pregnant women.

If the doctor detects a pregnancy, he or she calculates the expected date of birth. Sometimes the date of birth is calculated at a later examination. The doctor will then note this in the mother-child-passport and give you confirmation of the expected date of birth. You need this confirmation for work or health insurance.



Pregnancy test



The doctor will do an examination and determine if there is a pregnancy.

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## HELPFUL TIPS:

If you are pregnant, ask your health insurance company.

Check whether you are currently insured. There are counselling centres for each federal state that can be contacted:

» Austrian Health Insurance (ÖGK)

<https://www.gesundheitskasse.at>

» Social insurance for the self-employed (SVS)

<https://www.svs.at>

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

<https://www.bvaeb.at>

**Here you can find explanatory videos on the health system in different languages:**

<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/gesundheitsleistungen/gesundheitswesen/gesundheitsystem-videos>

Every person who is insured in Austria has an e-card.

With the e-card, people who have health problems or need medical help can go to a doctor or a hospital.

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



**You can find more information on the e-card here:**

<https://www.chipkarte.at>

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

<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/soziales/armut/2/Seite.1694200.html>

There are various doctors in Austria.

General Practitioners are there for all health problems and treat illnesses.

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

**Here is an overview of doctors in the federal states:**

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

**You can find more information about pregnancy here:**

Public Health Portal of Austria

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

**Overview of brochures and forms for pregnancy, birth and baby:**

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

## 1.2 What is the Mother-Child-Passport?

The mother-child-Passport is yellow and looks like a small book. Every pregnant woman in Austria receives a mother-child-passport – even if she is not an Austrian citizen.

The mother-child-passport helps with preventive health care for pregnant women, infants and toddlers up to their 5th birthday.

### **There are 5 medical examinations during pregnancy:**

These examinations are carried out by the gynaecologist. The examinations can also be done by a general practitioner, in a hospital or at a counselling centre for pregnant women. All important information and examinations are entered in the mother-child-passport. In this way, diseases can be detected and treated at an early stage.

**Important:** These 5 examinations are necessary for the pregnant woman to be entitled to the childcare allowance (see chapter 3.5.1). Only if these examinations are done in time and all the supporting documents are sent to the health insurance, the pregnant woman will receive the full amount of the childcare allowance payment. Otherwise it will be reduced. The proofs in the mother-child-passport can be sent as copies. The originals should remain in the mother-child-passport.

**In addition,** the mother can also have 2 blood tests and a sugar test during pregnancy. In certain cases, this should be done. The doctor can assess this and will recommend the examination. 3 ultrasound examinations can also be done: This way you can see the baby in the womb and get a photo.

Every pregnant woman is also entitled to a midwife consultation. There you can get information about pregnancy, birth and the time after birth. This is called the puerperium.



There are **5 medical examinations** during pregnancy

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After birth, there are a total of **10 examinations for the child.**

**Important:** You must provide evidence of 4 examinations of the child by the 15<sup>th</sup> month of life in order to receive childcare allowance. The ultrasound examinations during pregnancy, the midwife consultation, the hip ultrasound examinations and the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> examination of the child are independent of the childcare allowance. Therefore, it is the parents' decision whether to have these examinations or not.

Not all 14 mother-child-passport examinations have to be done. Nevertheless, all recommended examinations are important. They can help to detect health problems at an early stage. Parents should bear this in mind when making their decision.

The mother-child-passport and the examinations are free of charge. For this purpose, they must be carried out by doctors who have a contract with the health insurance.

**Here you can find more information about the mother-child-passport examinations:**

» **Public Health Portal of Austria**

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

» **Austria-wide platform**

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

Under „Family and Partnership“ you will find everything about the birth of a child: Here you can read what exactly is done at each examination and what deadlines you have to meet.



After birth,  
there are a total of  
**10 examinations**  
for the child.



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### 1.3 How can you prepare for pregnancy and the time after?

Pregnancy is a special, sometimes very challenging time. During pregnancy and after the birth of the child, there are various ways to get support. Get informed, then you can:

#### » get the proper support

Midwives help during pregnancy, during birth and afterwards with the new-born. You can search for a midwife in your area on the internet. The gynaecologist also often works with midwives and can help with the search for a midwife. Between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> week of pregnancy, you can take advantage of a free one-hour midwife consultation via the mother-child-passport.

Every pregnant woman can decide for herself when exactly to seek the help of a midwife. There are no legal requirements or deadlines. However, it makes sense to look for a midwife early in your pregnancy so that you can actually take advantage of this offer of help. Above all, midwives that are financed by health insurance are quickly booked. These are midwives who advise you free of charge because they have a contract with your health insurance company.

It is important to note: Depending on the type of birth, health insurance covers a different number of home visits before and after the birth (see chapter 3.2).

#### » be well prepared

Courses in birth preparation and pregnancy gymnastics are often offered in hospitals, parent-child centres and by midwives. These courses usually have a fee. You can get information about courses in your area in the following ways:

- » From midwives
- » in hospitals
- » in parent-child centres
- » on the internet

#### » feel well taken care of

After you gave birth, some examinations of the baby have to be done by the paediatrician.



Pregnancy is a special, sometimes very challenging time.



Midwives help during pregnancy, during birth and afterwards with the new-born.

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Therefore, you should already look for a suitable paediatrician during pregnancy.

Expecting parents should inform themselves on time about offers of support in order to be well prepared.

You can also ask a doctor directly what to look out for. You can also get information about what is to come on the internet.

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

» Midwifery care at a glance

[https://www.hebammen.at/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/HebammenberatungUeberblick\\_2019-3.pdf](https://www.hebammen.at/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/HebammenberatungUeberblick_2019-3.pdf)

» Search for midwives

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

» Information on antenatal classes and pregnancy gymnastics

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

» Search for suitable hospitals

[www.Kliniksuche.at](http://www.Kliniksuche.at)



After giving birth, some examinations of the baby have to be done by the paediatrician.

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## 1.4 Where can I find more services for pregnancy and early childhood?

Sometimes pregnant women, parents and families have a hard time for various reasons. Offers of support can be found at:

### » Family portal of the Federal Chancellery

On this website you will find information for families as well as help and advice on various topics, for example separation, divorce or violence in the family, family counselling centres, parent education, child and youth welfare.

### » Child and youth welfare

The child and youth welfare is an authority. It exists in every federal state in Austria. It is responsible when there are problems in the family: for example, violence or neglect. The child is then either physically or emotionally unwell. The child and youth welfare offers help to protect the child. If necessary, it also takes legal action.

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

- » Family centres of child and youth welfare
- » Parent and mother counselling
- » psychological counselling
- » mobile family care at home
- » Family Intensive Care

### » Health centres and advice centres

Health centres and counselling centres for women, girls, parents and families offer free and confidential information, counselling and care: for example, for medical, psychological, health or legal issues.

### » Violence protection centres, women's helpline against violence

In every province, there is free and confidential support for people affected by violence.

### » Parent-child centres

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



Offers of support and help



Information, advice and support

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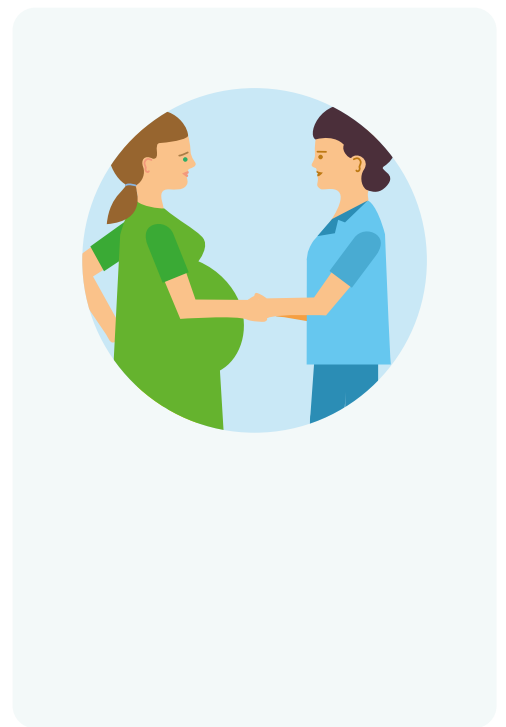
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Here, mothers and parents can exchange with other mothers and parents about everyday life with a child. Or they can get advice and support from professionals.



#### » Early Childhood Interventions (Frühe Hilfen)

In order to promote the health of pregnant women, expecting parents and children, there are Early Childhood Interventions (Frühe Hilfen). These exist especially for those who have a very hard time. The offer of family support for expecting parents and families with children from 0 to 3 years is voluntary and free of charge.

For example, you can get:

- » personal consultation
- » Accompaniment during visits to the authorities
- » Guidance and support in the care, provision and upbringing of the child

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

Family portal of the Federal Chancellery:

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

by telephone: 0800 240 262 (free of charge from all over Austria), e-mail: [familienservice@bka.gv.at](mailto:familienservice@bka.gv.at)

Here you can 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.noegov.at/noe/Jugend/Kinder-\\_und\\_Jugendhilfe.html](https://www.noegov.at/noe/Jugend/Kinder-_und_Jugendhilfe.html)
- » Burgenland: <https://www.burgenland.at/themen/soziales/kinder-und-jugendhilfe>
- » Upper Austria: <https://www.kinder-jugendhilfe-ooe.at>
- » Styria: <https://www.verwaltung.steiermark.at/cms/ziel/75777334/DE>
- » Salzburg: <https://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/soziales/kinder-und-jugendliche/jugendaemter>
- » Carinthia: <https://www.ktn.gv.at/Service/Formulare-und-Leistungen/GS-L69>
- » Tyrol: <https://www.tirol.gv.at/gesellschaft-soziales/kinder-jugendhilfe>
- » Vorarlberg: <https://vorarlberg.at/-/kinder-und-jugendhilfe>

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

Network of Austrian Women's Health Centres

<http://www.frauengesundheit.at>

Here you can search for women's and girls' counselling centres in your area:

Network of Austrian Women's and Girls' Counselling Centres:

[www.netzwerk-frauenberatung.at](http://www.netzwerk-frauenberatung.at)

telephone: 01 5 95 37 60

Here you can find family and parent counselling centres in your area:

<https://www.familienberatung.gv.at>

[www.eltern-bildung.at](http://www.eltern-bildung.at)

**Here you will find psychological counselling and support:**

Professional Association of Austrian Psychologists (BÖP)

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

telephone: 01 504 8000 (free telephone help Monday to Thursday 9 am – 1 pm)

e-mail: [helpline@psychologiehilft.at](mailto:helpline@psychologiehilft.at)

**Here you can find the Austrian Platform for Single Parents:**

<https://www.alleinerziehende.org>

**Here you can find violence protection centres in your federal state:**

[www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at](http://www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at)

Women's helpline against violence:

Internet: [www.frauenhelpline.at](http://www.frauenhelpline.at)

telefonisch: 0800 222 555 (kostenlos)

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

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

**Early Childhood Interventions (Frühe Hilfen) – the regional network near you:**

<https://www.fruehehilfen.at/de/Regionale-Netzwerke/Fruehe-Hilfen-Netzwerke.htm>



Inform the employer about the pregnancy

## 1.5 When and how should you inform work about the pregnancy?

The employee has a duty to report to the employer. This means: If you are pregnant, you must inform your employer about the pregnancy. Therefore, let work know as soon as you know you are pregnant. Give the medical confirmation of the date of birth to your employer.

**Important:** You can determine the exact time for reporting to the employer yourself. However, please note that the report of pregnancy is also important for you. The Maternity Protection Act applies to you from the time you report your pregnancy: For example, you are then no longer allowed to work overtime. The employer may not dismiss you during pregnancy and until 4 months after the baby is born.

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**Here you will find information on how to report your pregnancy to your employer:**

**Chamber of Labour**

[https://www.arbeiterkammer.at/beratung/berufundfamilie/Mutterschutz/Bekanntgabe\\_der\\_Schwangerschaft.html](https://www.arbeiterkammer.at/beratung/berufundfamilie/Mutterschutz/Bekanntgabe_der_Schwangerschaft.html)

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

If you are pregnant, you should register as early as possible in the maternity ward of a hospital or in a birth centre. In case, you should also discuss a planned home birth with your gynaecologist and a midwife early.

Very often, families can also visit the maternity ward and all the rooms for the birth beforehand. When you register, you should ask what things you should take with you for your hospital stay.

**Here you can find more information about registering a birth and planning a home birth:**

**Austria-wide platform:**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/2/Seite.080004.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/2/Seite.080004.html)

## 1.7 What is maternity protection?

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

Maternity protection applies during this time. Maternity protection also means: absolute prohibition of employment.

Sometimes maternity protection starts earlier: when the mother's health and/or the child's health are at risk. This must be determined and confirmed by a medical specialist. This is then called: individual employment ban or also early maternity protection.



Register at the hospital or birth centre

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Sometimes maternity protection ends later: in the case of a caesarean section, a premature birth or a multiple birth. Depending on the situation, it can take even longer. This is also decided by a medical specialist.

Some work is prohibited from the beginning of pregnancy and up to 12 weeks after birth, for example:

- » **lifting and carrying heavy things**
- » **Working with hazardous substances such as mercury**
- » **Piecework**  
This means that one is not paid according to working hours, but according to work performance.
- » **Working on an assembly line with a prescribed pace of work**
- » **Work that can almost only be done standing up**

All maternity protection regulations are in the Maternity Protection Act.

**You can find more information on maternity protection here:**

**Chamber of Labour**

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

## 1.8 What is the weekly allowance?

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

The pregnant woman receives the weekly allowance

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

During this time, you will not be paid any money by your employer.

The health insurance will check whether you are entitled to weekly allowance.

You get a weekly allowance if you

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



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



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

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The maternity allowance must be applied for at the health insurance.

For this you need

- » confirmation of the expected date of birth
- » a valid bank account with IBAN
- » **either** a confirmation of work and remuneration  
This is a confirmation of your work. Often the employer sends the confirmation to the health insurance himself. Simply ask at your workplace.
- » **or** a confirmation that you receive unemployment benefit, emergency assistance or childcare allowance

If you have the baby earlier than the expected date of birth, these days will be added to the weekly allowance after the birth.

**After the birth of the child**, the health insurance fund must be informed about the birth. Then you will continue to receive weekly allowance. For this you need

- » the confirmation of birth or the birth certificate
- » The registry office sends the confirmation of birth to the health insurance fund.
- » in the case of a hospital birth: a confirmation of hospitalisation
- » in the case of a premature birth, multiple birth or caesarean section: a confirmation from the hospital

**Important:** Copy all documents. Submit the copies to the health insurance and keep the original documents at home. You can send all documents to the health insurance by post or by e-mail. Or you can bring them in person.

How much weekly allowance you get depends on this,

- » how much you earned in the 3 months before maternity leave.
- » how much unemployment benefit or emergency assistance you have received.
- » whether you have received childcare allowance for another child.
- » whether you were marginally employed and self-insured.

**Here you can find more information on the maternity allowance::**

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



confirmation of work or remuneration

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



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## 2 The birth

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

### 2.1 What is an inpatient birth?

If you have an **inpatient birth**, you will give birth in the maternity ward of a hospital. Afterwards, you will be cared for and medically treated in hospital for a few days. This is necessary after a caesarean section, for example. In the postpartum period you can recover and get to know your child.

### 2.2 What is an outpatient birth?

If you have an outpatient birth, you will give birth in the maternity ward of a hospital. If the birth goes well, you and the baby will leave the hospital after a few hours. At home you will be cared for by the midwife and the paediatrician. From the day after discharge from hospital until the 5th day after birth, aftercare is free of charge.

**Here you will find information about the birth process:**

**Public Health Portal Austria:**

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

### 2.3 What is a home birth?

With a home birth, you give birth to your baby at home. If you want to have a home birth, talk to your gynaecologist and a midwife about it. They will look at your mother-child-passport and decide whether a home birth can be carried out. If so, the search for a midwife begins. The midwife provides care during, at and after the home birth. However, the health insurance does not cover all costs. You only get part of it back. Ask your midwife about this.



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



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**You can find more information about home birth here:**

**Public Health Portal Österreichs**

<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 to a child anonymously in hospital. This means that the pregnant woman does not have to give her last name. The anonymous birth can take place in any hospital. There, the mother receives medical care and can take advantage of social counselling. In addition, medical care is available before and after the birth.

The child and youth welfare services take over custody of the child after birth and place it with adoptive parents. The mother can come forward up to six months after the birth if she wishes to reverse the release for adoption. If the mother does not come forward and remains anonymous, the adoption becomes final.

You can also give a baby away anonymously after a birth. Many hospitals have a „baby hatch“ or „baby nest“ for this purpose. You can put the baby in there and it will be taken care of afterwards.

**Here you will find information on anonymous birth:**

» **Austria-wide platform**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/2/Seite.080020.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/2/Seite.080020.html)

» **Public Health Portal of Austria**

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



The anonymous birth can take place in any hospital.

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## 3 After birth

After the birth, it is time for you to familiarise yourself with the new situation. In addition, some important things have to be done.

### 3.1 What is the puerperium?

After the birth of the child, the so-called postpartum period begins. During these 6 to 8 weeks you can recover from the pregnancy and birth and get to know your baby. Every mother can be cared for by a midwife free of charge during these first weeks after the birth.

### 3.2 How do you get help in the postpartum period?

Women can have a daily home visit from a midwife after giving birth in hospital: from the day after discharge from hospital until the 5<sup>th</sup> day after birth. This means: At home in the postpartum period you will be supported by a midwife for 5 days free of charge. To do this, you need to find a midwife who has a contract with your health insurance. If you have complaints afterwards, the health insurance will cover the costs of further home visits. This is the case, for example, when breastfeeding does not work. A maximum of 7 further home visits up to 8 weeks after the birth are free of charge.

#### Tip:

Look for a midwife early enough. The midwife can assist you in early pregnancy and into the postpartum period. The best person to look after you after the birth is a midwife you trust. This is often the midwife who accompanied you during pregnancy.

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

» Information on the postpartum period

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

» Search for midwives

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



Every mother can be cared for by a midwife free of charge during these first weeks after the birth.

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### 3.3 Which official procedures do you have to take care of after birth?

After birth, some official procedures are necessary so that you can obtain important documents for your child. You also need this to get social and financial support.

#### 3.3.1 Birth announcement

Announcement of birth means that the birth of the baby is reported to the competent 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 have to do anything else in this matter.

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

- » the doctor or
- » the midwife

The parents receive the birth announcement and must hand it in at the registry office. After that, the registry office can officially issue the birth certificate.

#### 3.3.2 Birth certificate

The birth certificate states

- » the name and sex of the child
- » the names of the parents
- » the date and place of birth

The parents get the birth certificate free of charge from the registry office in the municipality or district where the baby was born. You can apply for the birth certificate directly at the registry office or on the internet. On the internet, this works via a digital baby point. Some hospitals offer a special service: You receive the birth certificate right on the spot.



After birth, some official procedures are necessary so that you can obtain important documents for your child.



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You must present the following documents no later than 1 week after the birth in order to obtain a birth certificate for the child:

- » written declaration of the chosen first name  
This means: You must provide the child's first name in writing.  
This is already written in the birth announcement.
- » if the parents are married: Marriage certificate of the parents
- » if the parents are not married: Birth certificate of the mother and, if available, the last marriage certificate of the mother
- » Proof of the dissolution or invalidity of the marriage or registered partnership
- » Proof of the nationality of the parents
- » Proof of the main residence of the parents in case of residence abroad
- » the confirmation of birth if there is no birth announcement yet

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

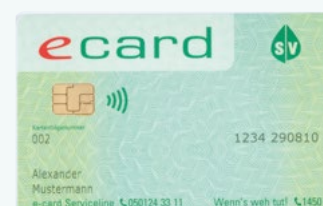
- » Information and link to the Digital Babypoint  
<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/landingpages/geburt.html>
- » Information on reissuing a birth certificate or international birth certificate  
[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/Seite.085100.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/Seite.085100.html)

### 3.3.3 Health insurance

The child is co-insured with the parents. If the child is ill, he or she is examined by the doctor and receives medical treatment. The doctor needs the child's e-card for this. Each child receives its own e-card with its own national insurance number by post.

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

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



Each child receives its own e-card with its own national insurance number by post.

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### 3.3.4 Residence registration

In Austria, there is a general obligation to register your place of residence. The parents must announce the child's place of residence within 3 days of the hospitalisation.

This is how you can register the place of residence:

- » at the registry office
- » at the municipal office
- » at the magistrate's office
- » via the Digital Babypoint on the Internet

You have to fill in a form to register your residence.

You will then receive a registration form for the child.

#### Tip:

You can do the birth announcement and the residence registration together.

To do this, you fill out the registration form at the hospital.

The documents are sent to the registry office.

You can then collect the birth certificate and the registration form there after your stay in hospital.

Ask at your hospital or the relevant registry office.

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

- » Residence registration form

<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/dam/jcr:38f0c638-c65a-4d06-98fe-ac4171607a3a/meldezettel.pdf>

- » Information on registering the residence of a baby

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/Seite.080200.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/Seite.080200.html)

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### 3.3.5 Proof of citizenship

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

The baby gets 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 will determine that he is the father. This must be done within 8 weeks after birth.

The baby does not receive Austrian citizenship,

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

The baby then gets the citizenship that the mother and/or father has. This depends on the citizenship rules in the parents' countries of origin. For this, the parents have to go to the respective embassy.

Persons without Austrian citizenship may apply for Austrian citizenship if they reside in Austria lawfully and without interruption. For this, a number of requirements must be met.

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

**Award 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 the child at the registry office or online via Digitales Babypoint.

You can apply for the certificate free of charge until the child's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. You will need the following documents:

- » Birth certificate of the child
- » Registration form of the child
- » Photo ID of the parents



When a baby is born in Austria, it is important which citizenship the mother and father have.

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**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. However, the baby was born when the parents were still married:

- » Proof of citizenship of the parent who has custody of the child
- » 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
  - » Birth certificate of the mother
  - » Proof of Austrian citizenship of the mother
2. The father is an Austrian citizen
  - » Birth certificate of the father
  - » Proof of the Austrian citizenship of the father
  - » Acknowledgement of paternity

This must happen within 8 weeks after birth.

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

- » Requirements for the acquisition of Austrian citizenship:  
<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/staats-und-unionsbuedergerschaft/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-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/staats-und-unionsbuedergerschaft/doppelstaatsbuedergerschaft>
- » Further information on citizenship:  
[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/leben\\_in\\_oesterreich/staatsbuedergerschaft/Seite.260200.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/leben_in_oesterreich/staatsbuedergerschaft/Seite.260200.html)



Depending on the situation, you may need additional documents.

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### 3.3.6 Acknowledgement of paternity

In these cases, the natural father can acknowledge paternity:

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

This is called voluntary acknowledgement of paternity.

This means that the baby's birth certificate contains the name of the biological father.

The father can acknowledge paternity before the birth or afterwards.

For this, he must personally sign a document:

- » at the registry office
- » in child and youth welfare
- » with a notary, or at the district court

The mother is informed about the acknowledgement of paternity.

Within 2 years, the mother can file an objection with the court.

That means she has to announce there if she does not want to.

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

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

In this case an application must be filed with the court.

Acknowledging paternity is the prerequisite for the child to receive maintenance or to inherit something from the father later.



The father can acknowledge paternity before the birth or afterwards.

Acknowledging paternity is the prerequisite for the child to receive maintenance or to inherit something from the father later.

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

- » **Voluntary acknowledgement of paternity**  
[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/1/Seite.082400.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/1/Seite.082400.html)
- » **Determination of paternity by a court**  
[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/1/Seite.082402.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/1/Seite.082402.html)
- » **Objection to the acknowledgement of paternity**  
[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/1/Seite.082403.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/1/1/Seite.082403.html)

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# Pregnant?



Medical examination



BIRTH DATE is calculated



5 examinations of the pregnant woman



WORK

Report pregnancy, confirmation of work and remuneration



Finding 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

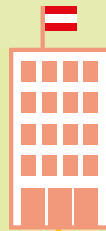
AT HOME



puerperium,  
aftercare midwife



REGISTRY OFFICE  
MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE



e-Card for child  
is coming home



birth certificate  
Residence registration  
Proof of citizenship  
Acknowledgement of  
paternity, custody

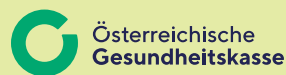
EMBASSY



Non-Austrian  
citizenship



Application for maternity  
allowance, childcare allowance



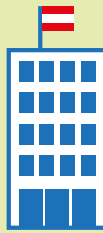
DAY NURSERY  
KINDERGARTEN



Registration



TAX OFFICE



Family allowance  
Family time bonus  
Other allowances  
and benefits



WORK

Notification of parental leave  
Family time bonus for fathers  
parental leave,  
Part-time parental leave

### 3.3.7 Determination of custody

Custody means that the parents are responsible for the child. This means that until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday they are responsible for

- » education,
- » care,
- » legal representation,
- » management of the asset.

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

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

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

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

- » **Custody of both parents**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234004.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234004.html)

- » **sole custody of one parent**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234001.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234001.html)

- » **Child advocate as a confidant for children**

<https://www.justiz.gv.at/home/service/familienrecht/kinderbeistand~25c.de.html>

- » **Contact rights, formerly visitation rights**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234006.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234006.html)

- » **Participation and duties of a stepparent**

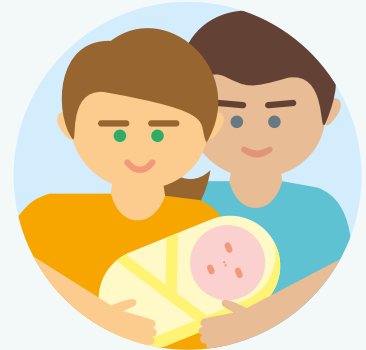
[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234003.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234003.html)

- » **Family Court Support**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234002.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/obsorge/Seite.234002.html)

- » **Cross-border dispute over the custody of a child**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/obsorge/Grenz%C3%BCberschreitende-Obsorgestreitigkeiten-in-der-EU.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/obsorge/Grenz%C3%BCberschreitende-Obsorgestreitigkeiten-in-der-EU.html)



Custody means that the parents are responsible for the child.

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

If parents divorce or no longer live together, custody remains with both parents. In court, the parents have to agree in which household the child mainly lives.

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

The court decides on custody,

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

### 3.3.8 Passport

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

You can apply for the child's passport at a specific authority: for example, at the district administration. In Vienna, you can do this at the magistrate's office. In some federal states this is also possible with the municipalities. Ask at your municipality office.

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

You must take the following documents with you:

- » Photo ID of one parent
- » Birth certificate of the child
- » Proof of citizenship of the child
- » Passport photo of the child

It is necessary that you observe the format:

Passport photo in portrait format, size 35 × 45 mm

The photo must also not be older than six months.

- » Birth certificate, marriage certificate of parents
- » 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.

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Here you will find information on the passport for children:

Austria-wide platform

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente\\_und\\_recht/reisepass/Seite.020450.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente_und_recht/reisepass/Seite.020450.html)

### 3.4 How can the care of the child be arranged?

After the birth, mother and father should be able to get to know their baby. That's what the parental leave is for. As soon as you want to return to work, you can take part-time parental leave.

It is soon time for your child to go to kindergarten? Then start looking for a suitable place in good time.

#### 3.4.1 Parental leave

After the birth of the child, the mother and the father are entitled to parental leave. That's why they call it parental leave. To take parental leave, you must be employed by a company.

During parental leave, one parent does not go to work but looks after the baby. Statt Gehalt oder Lohn gibt es das Kinderbetreuungsgeld (see chapter 3.5.1).

#### Who can take parental leave?

Mothers and fathers can take parental leave. However, parental leave is not available for the self-employed, students, housewives and househusbands. The parental leave can be changed between mother and father 2 times. This means that a total of 3 parts of parental leave are possible. For example, it can be divided like this:

1<sup>st</sup> maternity leave part, 2<sup>nd</sup> paternity leave part, 3<sup>rd</sup> maternity leave part

**Important:** Please note that mother and father cannot be on parental leave for the same child together all the time. They may only overlap briefly when changing, by being on parental leave together for one month. However, this only works for the first change, and the maximum parental leave is then reduced to 23 months in total.



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



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### **How long can you take parental leave?**

You have the right to parental leave up to a maximum of one day before the child's second birthday. That is a maximum of 24 months, during which you also cannot be terminated. You can arrange a longer period of parental leave with the employer in writing.

Parental leave begins after maternity leave, i.e. 8 weeks after birth. In the case of the mother, parental leave can also begin after a holiday or sick leave. The 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 by both parents with the respective employer. This agreement should be made in writing and be comprehensible. This can be done, for example, by sending a registered letter. This can be tracked and you can find out when it was sent and arrived.

In addition, there are reporting deadlines for different situations:

**1<sup>st</sup> parental leave part:** The mother goes on maternity leave directly after maternity leave.

You must report the parental leave to your employer while you are still on parental leave. This is possible up to 8 weeks after the birth of your child.

**1<sup>st</sup> parental leave part:** The father goes on parental leave directly after maternity leave.

You must notify the employer of the parental leave no later than 8 weeks after birth.

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> part of parental leave:** Mother and father take turns during parental leave.

You must notify the employer of any parental leave three months before it begins.

The employer must give you written confirmation. It states the start and duration of parental leave. The confirmation must be signed by the employer and the respective parent. This way the parents can prove that they are not on parental leave at the same time (see above – one month)



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

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### Can parental leave be extended?

The parental leave can also be extended. The mother or father on parental leave must inform the employer of this no later than 3 months before the end of the parental leave. You also must inform how long the parental leave will last. (See above – maximum until the day before the child's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday).

### Can you go to work during parental leave?

During parental leave, the parent on parental leave may work part-time. This is only possible if the earnings per month do not exceed the marginal earnings threshold.

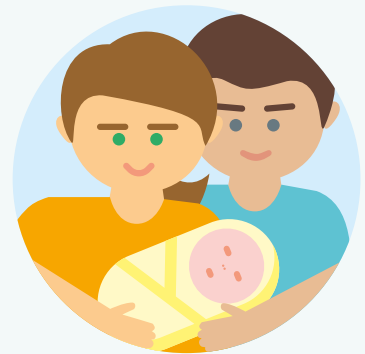
#### Here you can find more helpful information on parental leave:

##### » Austria-wide platform

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/arbeit\\_und\\_pension/elternkarenz\\_und\\_elternteilzeit.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/arbeit_und_pension/elternkarenz_und_elternteilzeit.html)

##### » marginal work during parental leave

<https://www.usp.gv.at/mitarbeiter/arten-von-beschaeftigung/geringfuegig-beschaeftigte.html>



Mothers and fathers are entitled to part-time parental leave under certain conditions.

### 3.4.2 Parental part-time work

Mothers and fathers are entitled to parental part-time work. This means, for example, that you can go back to work with fewer hours after the parental leave. Parents who have not been on parental leave can also go on parental part-time work.

### What do you have to consider when taking parental part-time work?

#### *Requirements and regulation*

- » Mother and father have the right to parental part-time work in the following cases:
  - Father or mother must live with the child in the same household or have custody. You must have worked continuously in the company for 3 years. The company has more than 20 employees. Otherwise, different rules apply.
- » Mother and father can also take parental part-time work at the same time. However, each parent may only take parental part-time work once per child.

If one parent is on parental leave for the child, the other cannot take parental part-time work for the same child.

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Rights and obligations between the parent and his or her employer:

- » You must agree on parental part-time work with your employer:  
Start, duration, weekly hours, working hours
- » Working hours must be reduced by at least 20 percent. For example, if you work 40 hours a week, that's 8 hours less. If the hours are left the same, however, the location of the working hours must change. This means, for example, that you start one hour later each day.
- » More than 12 hours per week must be worked.
- » The employer must agree to parental part-time work. The employer may voluntarily agree to a different number of hours: for example, 10 hours per week.
- » If the mother or father has already worked part-time before the birth of the child, the weekly hours must be further reduced for parental part-time work.
- » Afterwards, mothers and fathers on parental part-time work have the right to work the same number of hours per week as before the parental part-time work. If you previously worked 40 hours per week, you also have the right to do so after parental part-time work.
- » Employer and also mother or father all have the following right: You can all demand once that the parental part-time work ends – or that it is changed. This must be done in writing and at the latest 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 the latest 2 months before the end of the parental part-time work.

#### *Start and duration*

- » For mothers, parental part-time work can begin after maternity leave at the earliest.
- » parental part-time work must last at least 2 months.
- » You can take parental part-time work until your child's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- » In some cases, even longer – for example, if the child cannot start school at the foreseen age.
- » parental part-time work may end earlier for the mother or father if he or she goes on maternity leave for another child.

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

- » in the case of parental part-time work directly after maternity leave:
  - Notification of the mother during maternity leave
  - Notification of the father no later than eight weeks after the birth of the child
  
- » in the event of a later start of parental part-time work:
  - Notification at least 3 months before the desired start of parental part-time work
  
- » In the case of parental part-time work of less than 3 months:
  - If a parent goes on parental part-time work for less than 3 months directly after maternity leave: Then the other parent must report his or her parental part-time work while still on parental leave.

**Important:** You must make the notification of parental part-time work in writing: The beginning, duration, weekly hours and working hours must be stated in it.

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

» **Austria-wide platform**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/arbeit\\_und\\_pension/elternkarenz\\_und\\_elternteilzeit/Seite.3590004.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/arbeit_und_pension/elternkarenz_und_elternteilzeit/Seite.3590004.html)

» **Information on parental part-time work**

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

» **Parents' calendar of the Chamber of Labour**

[https://elternkalender.arbeiterkammer.at/?mtm\\_campaign=Elka&mtm\\_kwd=Own&mtm\\_source=Koophelp&mtm\\_medium=CC&mtm\\_content=V1](https://elternkalender.arbeiterkammer.at/?mtm_campaign=Elka&mtm_kwd=Own&mtm_source=Koophelp&mtm_medium=CC&mtm_content=V1)

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### 3.4.3 Day nursery and kindergarten

Children up to the age of 3 are cared for in a crèche. From the age of 2½ or 3 years, children can attend kindergarten.

#### **When and how can you register your child?**

If you want your child to be looked after in a crèche or kindergarten: Then you should register it as early as possible.

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

**Note:** At private kindergartens you can register the child even before birth. However, a registration fee is to pay.

Where can you register your child:

- » in the municipal office
- » in the magistrate's office of the city
- » at private institutions
- » directly on site at the kindergarten

Which documents you need for registration depends on the care facility. In the same way, the type of registration is always different. Depending on the institution, this can be done without or with a form, in person, in writing or electronically.

It is best to ask the institution or the competent authority directly.

#### **What costs will you incur?**

Registration for a place in the crèche or kindergarten is free of charge. Once the child has been allocated a place, a parental contribution is normally to pay each month. The amount of this contribution varies depending on the municipality, magistrate or care facility. Under certain conditions, you pay less. The costs are different in every federal state. Find out more about this from the relevant office.



At public kindergartens you can register your child from birth.

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The free kindergarten year is available throughout Austria: In the last year before school, your child can attend the kindergarten half-day free of charge. That is 20 hours per week. Lunch is not free of charge.

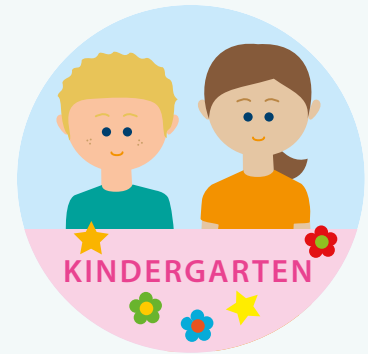
### What are your duties?

Children who have turned 5 years of age by 31<sup>st</sup> August must attend half-day kindergarten from September to June. This is mandatory in Austria. School holidays are excluded. In addition, a maximum of 5 weeks' leave is also permitted during this period.

#### Here you will find information on childcare:

##### Austria-wide platform

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/kinderbetreuung.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/kinderbetreuung.html)



Children who have turned 5 years of age by 31<sup>st</sup> August must attend half-day kindergarten from September to June.

## 3.5 What financial assistance is available?

### 3.5.1 Idcare allowance

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

Childcare allowance is paid to the parent who mainly cares for the child and is on parental leave (see chapter 3.4.1).

This parent must fulfil further requirements:

- » The parent is entitled to family allowance for the child and receives the family allowance.
- » The parent lives with the child in the same household.
- » Both have the same main residence.
- » The parent and the child live in Austria.
- » The parent and the child are legally residing in Austria.
- » All necessary mother-child-passport examinations have been done.
- » That is 5 examinations during pregnancy and 5 examinations of the child after birth.
- » The additional earnings limit has been complied with.
- » If the mother and father do not live together, the parent must have custody of the child and receive family allowance. (For custody, see chapter 3.3.7)

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## There are 2 types of childcare allowance:

### 1. fixed childcare allowance

In this case, you have a childcare allowance account. There is a fixed sum for the entire waiting period.

#### Who gets it?

Fixed childcare allowance can be received by everyone: also women and men who were or are not employed or not compulsorily insured. These are, for example, housewives and househusbands, students or people who work marginally.

#### How much do you get?

How much is paid per day depends on the duration of the parental leave. In 2022: in the shortest version, the childcare allowance is 33.88 euros per day. In the longest version, it is 14.53 euros per day.

#### How long do you get it?

You can receive the fixed childcare allowance for 365 days to 851 days from the day of the child's birth. If both parents go on parental leave, it can be up to 1063 days.

#### What if you need further financial help?

Families with very low incomes can apply for further allowances. In so-called hardship cases, the duration of the payment of childcare allowance can be extended.

### 2. income-dependent childcare allowance

In this case, the childcare allowance depends on your income.

#### Who gets it?

Only the following persons can receive income-dependent childcare allowance: Persons who have worked in Austria in the 182 days before the birth of the child. In addition, they must have been covered by health and pension insurance through work. During these 182 days, they must not have received any benefits from unemployment insurance. This is, for example, unemployment benefit, unemployment assistance or further education benefit. A 2-week break from 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 working and become ill or go on holiday, this does not count as an interruption.



There are 2 types of childcare allowance:

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### How much do you get?

How much you are paid depends on the earnings of the parent before the parental leave. In 2022, you will receive a minimum of 33.88 euros per day up to a maximum of 66 euros per day.

### How long do you get it?

The income-related childcare allowance can be drawn until the 365<sup>th</sup> day after the birth of your child. If both parents go on parental leave, it can be up to 426 days.

### What else do you need to consider with both types?

Mothers and fathers on parental leave can also earn a marginal amount of extra money in both cases.

At this point you should apply for childcare allowance:

- » You can apply for childcare allowance from your social insurance company on the day of birth at the earliest.
- » 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 retrospective for up to 182 days. Therefore, make the application immediately after the birth or when you take over the care. This is the only way you can also get all the childcare allowance you are entitled to.

In this case, you will receive further financial assistance:

In addition, there is a **partnership bonus**. Mother and father receive the partnership bonus if they share the care almost equally, for example 50:50 to 60:40. In addition, the parents must have received childcare allowance for at least 124 days. For this, there is a bonus of another 1000 euros on top of the childcare allowance. That is 500 euros per parent.

You can apply for the partnership bonus together with the application for childcare allowance. Each parent must submit a separate application to their social security company. This is the office that pays the childcare allowance. You can also apply later. However, you must do this within a certain period of time. Check with your social security company.



Mothers and fathers on parental leave can also earn a marginal amount of extra money in both cases.

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### HELPFUL LINKS:

» Information on childcare allowance can be found on the Family Portal of the Federal Chancellery and at the Childcare Allowance Infoline

<https://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie/kinderbetreuungsgeld.html>

telephone: 0800 240 014,

Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

» Childcare allowance online calculator

<https://services.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/KBG-Rechner/index.html#willkommen>

» Requirements for the entitlement to childcare allowance

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/3/1/Seite.080620.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/3/1/Seite.080620.html)

» 2 Types of childcare allowance

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

» Information on how to apply

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

» Partnership bonus

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/3/2/Seite.080631.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/3/2/Seite.080631.html)



The family allowance is a financial support for parents.

### 3.5.2 Family allowance

The family allowance is a financial support for parents.

With this money you can buy clothes, diapers, baby food and so on.

Parents receive family allowance for each child. Parents always receive family allowance: regardless of whether they work, are unemployed or earn a lot. The family's centre of life must be in Austria.

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

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### How much do you get?

The family allowance depends on the age and number of children. In 2022, you will receive 114 euros per month for a child from birth.

#### Here you can find out how much family allowance you get:

» Austria-wide platform

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/2/Seite.080714.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/2/Seite.080714.html)

» Family allowance calculator of the Federal Chancellery

<http://familienbeihilfenrechner.bmfj.gv.at>

» Family allowance calculator of the Chamber of Labour

<https://familienbeihilfe.arbeiterkammer.at>

**Note:** The amount of family allowance depends on the age of the child. In addition, parents 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/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/2/Seite.080713.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/2/Seite.080713.html)



The family allowance depends on the age and number of children.

### How do you apply for family allowance?

When the child is born, you do not have to apply for family allowance separately. The tax office will check all the requirements and inform you of the entitlement. The family allowance is transferred to an account of the parents. In case of missing information, you will be asked for further data.

**Note:** For births before 1. 5. 2019, an application for family allowance must be submitted. Therefore, you need to fill in a form.

The application can also be submitted at any time later. However, you will then only receive back-payment of the family allowance for the last 5 years from the date of application.

You are entitled to family allowance for each child under the age of 18. Under certain conditions, you can receive family assistance until the child's 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. In exceptional cases, this is also possible until the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. For children with disabilities, you receive more family allowance – but only from a degree of disability of 50 per cent.

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### HELPFUL LINKS:

» General information on family allowance

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

or

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/steuern\\_und\\_finanzen/sonstige\\_beihilfen\\_und\\_foerderungen/4/1.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/steuern_und_finanzen/sonstige_beihilfen_und_foerderungen/4/1.html)

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

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie/familienbeihilfe/familienbeihilfenbeträge-für-Kinder-mit-ständigem-aufenthalt-in-eu-ewr-ch.html>

» Increased family allowance for children with disabilities

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

or

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/menschen\\_mit\\_behinderungen/kindheit\\_und\\_behinderung/1/Seite.1220330.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/menschen_mit_behinderungen/kindheit_und_behinderung/1/Seite.1220330.html)



Fathers can take family time immediately after the birth.

### 3.5.3 Family time bonus for fathers

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

Family time can last 28, 29, 30 or 31 days. This is called a family month. You can only get the family bonus for the days of family time.

#### How much money do you get?

The family time bonus is 22.60 euros per day. In total, this is a maximum of 700 euros. If the father later goes on parental leave and receives childcare allowance: Then the childcare allowance is reduced by the family bonus. This means that you will receive less childcare allowance. The duration of the payout does not change.

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

- » The parents receive family allowance for the child.
- » The centre of life of both parents and the child is in Austria.

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- » Both parents and the child live in a common household and have the same main residence.
- » They take up family time.
- » You have worked continuously in a company for the last 182 days. During this time, you must not have received any benefits from unemployment insurance. This is, for example, unemployment assistance, emergency assistance or further education benefit. A 2-week break from work is possible during this period.
- » This means that you may not have worked for up to 14 days during this period. If you work and become ill or go on holiday during this time, this does not count as an interruption.
- » For non-Austrians: You are legally residing in Austria.

### How do you apply for financial support?

The father must apply for the family time bonus. To do this, you need to fill in an application form. You then submit the application to your health insurance company. The application must also state how many days of family time you are taking. Here you can enter between 28 and 31 days. This information cannot be changed later.

### When do you start receiving the family time bonus?

In the case of a birth in hospital, the family time bonus begins at the earliest when mother and child leave the 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/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/Seite.080623.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/Seite.080623.html)
- » Information from the Austrian Social Insurance  
<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](http://www.meinesv.at) or [www.finanzone.at](http://www.finanzone.at)



The father must apply for the family time bonus.

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### 3.5.4 Further financial aid and support for families

#### 3.5.4.1 Sole-earner or single-parent deduction

The single-earner or single-parent deduction helps families in which

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

Sole wage earners who are entitled to the sole wage 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 wife, husband, partner, and the wife, husband, partner earns less than 6,000 euros per year.  
All income is taken into account here. This means that, for example, the weekly allowance counts towards this amount.
- » Tax-free income such as unemployment benefit does not count towards this.

Single parents who are entitled to the single-parent deduction,

- » are liable for tax and have at least one child,
- » do not live with their wife, husband, partner for more than 6 months a year,
- » have received the child deduction for their child or children for more than 6 months per year (see Chapter 3.5.4.2).

#### How much money do you get?

The single-earner or single-parent deduction amounts to per year:

- » with one child: 494 euros
- » with two children: 669 euros
- » with three children: 889 euros
- » for each additional child you will receive an additional 220 euros.



#### Further financial aid and support for families

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**Here you can find more information on the child deduction:**

**Austria-wide platform**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html#Alleinverdiener](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html#Alleinverdiener)

### 3.5.4.2 Child deduction

The child deduction is a tax credit for children. As a result, the parents pay less tax. If you receive family allowance, you are entitled to the child deduction. You will receive the amount together with the family allowance. You do not have to submit an application for this. It does not matter how much you earn or how much tax you pay: The child deduction amounts to 58.40 euros per child and month.

**Here you can find more information on the child deduction:**

**Austria-wide platform**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html)

### 3.5.4.3 Maintenance deduction

If you pay maintenance for your child who does not live in the same household: Then you are entitled to the maintenance deduction. 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 deduction can be declared in the employee tax assessment or the income tax return.

The monthly maintenance deduction amounts to:

- » for the first child: 29,20 Euro
- » for the second child: 43,80 Euro
- » for the third and each further child: 58,40 Euro



If you receive family allowance, you are entitled to the child deduction.

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**Here you can find more information on the maintenance deduction:**

**Austria-wide platform**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html)

#### **3.5.4.4 Child allowance**

You can only claim the child allowance for 2018. Since 2019, there is only the Family Bonus Plus.

#### **3.5.4.5 Familienbonus Plus**

The Family Bonus Plus is a tax deduction in the amount of 1,500 euros per child and year. You can get this payment until the child is 18 years old. After the child's 18th birthday, the Family Bonus Plus is reduced to 500 euros per year if family allowance is received for this child.

The Family Bonus Plus can be paid out either by the employer. In this case, you will receive the amount together with your salary. Or you enter the deduction amount in the employee tax assessment. The Family Bonus Plus applies to children in Austria. The Family Bonus Plus is increased or reduced for children in the EU, the EEA area and Switzerland. The amount varies depending on the country.

**You can find more information on the Family Bonus Plus here:**

» **Family portal**

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

» **Austria-wide platform**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080720.html)



The Family Bonus Plus is a tax deduction in the amount of 1,500 euros per child and year.

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### 3.5.4.6 Support in the federal provinces

Some federal states and municipalities have additional allowances and financial support for families. For example: The City of Vienna and some other provinces offer an additional family allowance. In this way, they support families with little income.

There is also a family pass. This is an offer by the federal states and provides families with discounts for leisure activities. The family pass can have different names in the federal states. The requirements for the family pass are different in each federal state.

Aid organisations also offer household and childcare support for the time in hospital and the first weeks at home. These are, for example, the Caritas family assistance mission, Volkshilfe Austria or Hilfswerk Austria. Sometimes the costs for this are covered in whole or in part by federal states and municipalities..



Some federal states and municipalities have additional allowances and financial support for families.

#### Here you will find information on offers from the federal states:

Family allowance, application for family pass

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080750.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/geburt/3/2/6/Seite.080750.html)

#### Here you can find offers of support from aid organisations:

» Caritas family support

<https://www.caritas-wien.at/hilfe-angebote/kinder-familie>

» Volkshilfe Austria

<https://www.volkshilfe.at>

» Hilfswerk Austria

<https://www.hilfswerk.at/oesterreich/kinderbetreuungs-kompass>

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### 3.5.5 Child maintenance

If the child and one or both parents do not live in the same household, the child is entitled to maintenance. This is also called alimony. The parents can agree on the amount between themselves. Or it is determined by a court. The maintenance is to be spent only on the child. The parent who does not live with the child in the same household must pay maintenance to the other parent.

From the 18th birthday onwards, the child can demand to receive maintenance directly. Then the amount is transferred to the child. In any case, the money belongs to the child. Therefore, a parent cannot simply waive maintenance.

The amount of maintenance depends on the parents. Namely, assets, income, education, ability to work and labour market situation. In the same way, we look at what the child needs. Age, aptitudes, abilities and development opportunities are taken into account. The amount can be reduced: If the parent who does not live in the same household as the child looks after the child much more often.

**You can find more information on child maintenance here:**

**Austria-wide platform**

[https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/alleinerziehung/5/1.html](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/alleinerziehung/5/1.html)



The maintenance is to be spent only on the child.

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## STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY TOGETHTER

**Frühe**HILFEN 

Please contact us

[www.fruehehilfen.at](http://www.fruehehilfen.at)

## Family support

For expectant parents and families with  
children from the age of 0–3 years old

### Family support helps

Living with a child brings a lot of joy, but sometimes can also be confusing and overwhelming.

- » unexpected changes occur during pregnancy
- » there is little support from the partner or other family members
- » the child needs more attention than you feel you can give
- » there is not enough money anymore
- » a family member experiences psychological or mental problems
- » the daily life of the family becomes difficult

### Finding the right help

Family support assists you and your family for free to get the right help:

From personal counselling to assistance with official channels (authorities), up to guidance and support with nursing, care and education for your child

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