



sassa

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

[*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. NJALO!*]

Old Age Grant





Grants of older persons

Qualification requirements

- You must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee;
- Must live in South Africa;
- Must be 60 years of age or older
- You and your spouse must meet the requirements of the means test
- You must not be maintained or cared for in an institution funded by the state (Such as a prison, rehabilitation centre or state old age home)
- You must not receive another social grant for yourself.

What documents do I Require for Older Person's Grant?

The following original documents or certified copies thereof, must accompany an application for an older person's grant.

- Your identity document and the identity document of your spouse. If these documents are not available, SASSA will give you an affidavit to complete.
- Proof of spousal relationship status. The following documents will be accepted:
 - A sworn statement or an affidavit;
 - Divorce Order;
 - Marriage certificate;
 - Spouse's death certificate;
- A sworn statement or an affidavit indicating the income and assets of both you and your spouse.
- Supporting documents as deemed necessary to prove your income and assets. In the case of a spousal relationship, include documents to confirm the income and assets of your spouse
- Documented proof of the income of dependent children.
- It should be noted that when affidavits are required SASSA will provide the affidavits to be completed.

Where do I apply for a grant?

- You apply at the local SASSA office nearest to where you live;

How do I apply?

- If you are too old / or sick to travel to the office to apply for a grant, then a family member or friend can apply on your behalf;
- Your application form will be completed in the presence of an officer from SASSA;
- An officer from SASSA must assist you to complete an application form if you are unable to do so;
- When your application is completed you will be given a dated stamped receipt; bearing the name of the SASSA official who assisted you;
- Keep this receipt – it is your only proof of application;
- You do not have to pay any money to apply;
- If your application is approved you will be advised in writing;
- If your application is rejected by SASSA, you will be informed in writing. The letter informing you of the outcome will include reasons why your application was not successful;
- You have the right to request SASSA to reconsider its decision, if you are unhappy with the decision made. The request for SASSA to reconsider its decision must be informed by the outcome of your application. If the reconsidered decision is still unfavourable, you have the right to appeal to the Minister of Social Development in writing;

Date of award of a grant

If your grant is approved, you will be paid from the date on which you applied.

Method of payment

You can receive your grant through one of the following methods:

- Cash payment at designated pay points
- Bank including Post bank
- Institutions


NB: If you are unable to personally collect the grant for yourself you may appoint a person to collect it on your behalf.

Grant Reviews

You must declare any income and assets at the time of application. This will inform how frequently a review will be performed. If you fail to provide SASSA with the necessary documentation during the review, your grant will be suspended.

Reviews verify that you still comply with conditions for the continuation of the grant. This is to make sure that you are still entitled to the grant. A review is conducted to check that your circumstances have not changed since you have applied for the grant or were last reviewed, and in some cases that you are still alive (completion of a Life Certificate).

SASSA must notify you in writing, at least three months before the date of the review indicating where and when the review will take



place and what may happen as a result. Home visits are conducted for bed-ridden beneficiaries. When the process is completed you must be given a receipt of compliance.

Note that it is your responsibility to help SASSA to be informed of any change of address, as all official correspondence from SASSA is posted to the last address we have on file for you.

Suspension of the grant

The following may result in the suspension of your grant:

- Changes in your financial circumstances;
- Outcome of a review;
- Failure to co-operate when your grant is reviewed;
- The furnishing of false information (fraud or misrepresentation);
- If the grant was approved in error;
- If you did not collect the grant for three consecutive months;
- If you are absent from the Republic for a period exceeding 90 days.

Restoration of a grant

- An application must be made for the restoration of a grant within 90 days of the suspension.

Main Reason for Lapsing of a grant:

A grant will lapse:

- On the last day of the month in which you die
- You are admitted to an institution funded by the state (Prison, state old age home, rehabilitation centre)
- If you are absent from the Republic for more than 90 days
- Six months after the date on which you were submitted to a psychiatric hospital, and you remain in the hospital

Responsibility of the beneficiaries

It is the responsibility of beneficiaries to keep SASSA informed of changes in personal and financial circumstances (means) and of any change in either your physical or postal addresses.

Fraud

SASSA exercises zero tolerance to fraudulent activities.

What is a means test?

In South Africa social assistance is subject to means testing, which implies that SASSA evaluates the income and assets of the person applying for a social grant in order to determine whether the person's means are below a stipulated amount. This means test determines whether a person qualifies to receive a grant, as social assistance is indeed meant for those who have insufficient means to support themselves.

If the applicant is married half of the annual joint income will be taken into consideration. The value of any property owned is required for record purposes. However, if you live in the property you own, it will not affect the means test.

CONTACT DETAILS

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