

# Dealing with money held in trust for a child

(Information Sheet 3)

10 Jul 2025

## What happens if the beneficiaries are children?

When we distribute CPF money, money from the estate or from compensation for a motor accident, sometimes the person we need to pay the money to is a child.

We will hold the money in trust for the child until the child is eligible to receive the money according to the ages listed below.

| Type of money                             | Age |
|---|-----|
| Nominated CPF money                       | 18  |
| Un-nominated CPF money                    | 21  |
| Estate money                              | 21  |
| Money from motor accident<br>Compensation | 21  |
| Compensation for a work injury (self)     | 18  |
| Government's death gratuity               | 18  |

## What do you do with the money held in trust?

We will invest the money that is held in trust in safe financial instruments like fixed deposits and bonds. We will pay the money, plus interest earned (less our fees), to the child when he/she reaches the age of majority (either 18 or 21).

The parent or legal guardian may view the child's statement of account online at our website: <http://www.mlaw.gov.sg/pto>.

## What are the fees you charge for investing money held in trust?

The fees we charge on the amount of interest earned from investing money held in trust are shown below.

| Amount of Interest Earned        | Charge |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| For the first \$1,000            | 5.50%  |
| For the next \$1,000             | 4.50%  |
| For the next \$1,000             | 3.50%  |
| For amounts in excess of \$3,000 | 2.25%  |

These fees include GST and cannot be waived.

## Can you release the money held in trust because I am now the only parent or guardian of the child and have financial difficulties supporting the child?

Under sections 68 and 70 of the Women's Charter, it is the duty of the parent or guardian of a child to maintain or contribute to his/her maintenance if he/she cannot look after himself/herself.

If you are the parent or legal guardian of a child and you face financial difficulties in supporting the child, you may apply to us for a maintenance allowance out of the child's money which we are holding.

In deciding the amount of the maintenance allowance, we will consider the following.

1. Your income, property and other financial resources.
2. Your financial needs and responsibilities.
3. The financial needs and the age of the child.
4. The way in which the child is being or is expected to be educated or trained.

The law requires withdrawal caps from any child's trust to be imposed. Once the withdrawal cap is reached, the Public Trustee will cease to make any further maintenance payments or make further reimbursement of expenses incurred for the child's benefit from the trust.

For CPF monies: Only half (50%) of the capital and any interest earned may be disbursed.

For other monies:

Withdrawals will be capped at \$25,000 if the total capital of the trust is less than or equal to \$50,000. Where the total capital of the trust is more than \$50,000, withdrawals from the trust will be capped at 50% of the total capital of the trust.

Example 1 – Where total capital of trust is equal to \$25,000

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Total capital of trust           | \$25,000 |
| Maximum sum that may be paid out | \$25,000 |

Example 2 – Where total capital of trust is more than \$25,000 but less than \$50,000

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Total capital of trust           | \$30,000 |
| Maximum sum that may be paid out | \$25,000 |

Example 3 – Where total capital of trust is more than \$50,000 and only half (50%) of the capital of trust is available for withdrawal

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Total capital of trust           | \$80,000 |
| Maximum sum that may be paid out | \$40,000 |

These caps protect the interests of your child by ensuring that he/she can receive a meaningful sum on reaching adulthood and get a head start in life.

## How do I apply for a child's maintenance allowance?

You will need to make an online application for maintenance allowance at [www.mlaw.gov.sg/pto](http://www.mlaw.gov.sg/pto).

You will also need to have your Singpass ready to access our online application form. You may apply for your Singpass at <https://www.singpass.gov.sg> if you do not have one. If you are not eligible for a Singpass, you may apply for a log-in ID and password through our website at <http://www.mlaw.gov.sg/pto>.

### **What are the documents that I need to send to you?**

You will need to provide proof that you are not able to support the child (for example, your monthly payslips) and documents relating to the child's financial needs.

For us to make payment, you will also need to give us evidence of a joint savings account opened with the child. We will accept a copy of the bank statement with the joint bank account number with the account holders' names on it.

### **How will the maintenance allowance be paid?**

The maintenance allowance will be credited into a **joint savings account**, maintained by the parent or legal guardian with the child, via GIRO every three months in January, April, July and October.

### **Can I get a reimbursement of extra expenses which are more than the maintenance allowance?**

We may reimburse you, out of the child's money, for the expenses of the education and welfare of the child, if these are not covered by the maintenance allowance. We consider each request on a case-by-case basis.

### **What do I need to do to get a reimbursement of extra expenses?**

You will need to send documents to your case officer showing proof of payment.

Common proof-of-payment documents are:

1. A letter of acceptance from the child's school showing the amount of school fees; and
2. receipts showing proof of payment to the school.

### **What happens if I cannot afford to pay the extra expenses?**

If we agree to pay for the expenses out of your child's money, we will make payment to the school direct.

#### **Website:**

[www.mlaw.gov.sg/pto](http://www.mlaw.gov.sg/pto)

#### **Telephone:**

Tel: 1800-2255-529

#### **Address:**

The URA Centre (East Wing) 45 Maxwell Road #07-11 Singapore 069118

#### **E-helper Operating Hours:**

Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 5.00pm