

DRAFT FAMILY ALLOWANCES (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 199

**Lodged au Greffe on 23rd November 1999
by the Employment and Social Security Committee**



STATES OF JERSEY

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Report

The Employment and Social Security Committee believes that Family Allowance is an extremely important benefit, being the allowance specifically targeted to low income families as a contribution to the general cost of bringing up dependent children. It is aimed at those families below the tax threshold and is assessed on the returns made to the Income Tax Department. The benefit is not, therefore, designed or structured to meet immediate need, as it is based on this historic income. However, Family Allowance is a vital component in a series of means-tested benefits available to low income families in Jersey, and, as such, it continues to feature in the Committee's research into low income support in Jersey. As indicated last year, the Committee is formulating proposals for a general income support benefit which ultimately would subsume Family Allowance.

In the meantime, the Committee needs to maintain the existing Family Allowance Scheme and, under Article 12 of the Family Allowance (Jersey) Law 1972, the rates of the allowance are required to be reviewed in relation to the cost of living and general standard of living of the community. The Committee is proposing an increase of 3.3 per cent on existing maximum rates, which is also in line with recent increases in the Parish Welfare Rates.

The table below gives examples of current weekly rates and proposed weekly rates for a two-child family -

<i>Annual income</i>	<i>Current rate</i>	<i>Proposed rate</i>
6,600	85.46	88.29
8,500	67.66	69.90
10,500	48.92	50.53
12,500	30.17	31.17
14,500	11.43	11.81

The Committee estimates that the cost of the Family Allowance benefits, including these proposals, will be within the cash limit set for the year 2000.

Explanatory Note

These Regulations specify the rates and amounts for the purposes of calculating the annual rate of family allowance during the family allowance year beginning on Tuesday, 4th January 2000.

Family Allowances (Jersey) Law 1972

FAMILY ALLOWANCES (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 1999

(Promulgated on the day of 1999)

STATES OF JERSEY

The day of 1999

THE STATES, in pursuance of Article 7 of the Family Allowances (Jersey) Law 1972,¹ as amended,² have made the following Regulations -

1. For the purposes of Article 7(1) of the Family Allowances (Jersey) Law 1972,¹ as amended,³ the following amounts are specified in respect of the family allowance year beginning on Tuesday, the fourth day of January 2000 -

- (a) £2,476 shall be the maximum annual rate of the allowance in respect of the first child of a family;
- (b) £2,115 shall be the maximum annual rate of the allowance in respect of the second child of a family;
- (c) £2,000 shall be the maximum annual rate of the allowance in respect of each of the children of a family born after the first two children;
- (d) £6,600 shall be the decline point;

¹ Recueil des Lois, Volume 1970-1972, page 417.

² Recueil des Lois, Volume 1984-1985, page 81, and Nos. 8132 and 8455.

³ Recueil des Lois, Volume 1984-1985, page 81.

- (e) the amount found by adding to £11,320 the sum of £2,200 in respect of each child of the family shall be the maximum level of family income; and
- (f) £52 shall be the minimum annual rate of the allowance in respect of each child of a family.

2. The Family Allowances (Jersey) Regulations 1998⁴ are repealed.

3. These Regulations may be cited as the Family Allowances (Jersey) Regulations 1999 and shall come into force on the fourth day of January 2000.

⁴ No. 9336.