

What happens when you die

Video transcript

Here, we'll look at the benefits that may be payable when you die. There are survivors pensions in the event of your death. So a pension may be payable to a spouse, civil partner or eligible financial dependants.

If you do have any financial dependants, it's important to complete the **Registration of potential dependant form** that can be found on My USS and keep it up to date. You do not need to register a child, spouse or civil partner, as they may be eligible to receive a pension in their own right under the scheme rules.

There may also be a lump sum benefit payable, depending on whether you die whilst you're still contributing to USS, whether it's after you've retired or after you've left USS but before your pension started.

Now, if you were to die whilst you're still contributing to USS, a lump sum would be payable that's typically three times your annual salary, and this is known as life cover. But as just mentioned, a lump sum may also be payable if you die after you've retired, or if you left USS but before your pension started.

Payment of these lump sums is made at the discretion of USS, but your wishes are taken into consideration. And this consideration allows the trustee to consider who the recipients of any lump sum payable should be.

So that USS can take your wishes into account, it's important to fill out your **Expression of Wish form** to let the trustee know who you'd want to receive any lump sum that might be payable to you when you die. And it does not always have to be a person, it could even be a charity or any other organisation capable of receiving the money. You can fill this form out on My USS, and USS recommends you keep it updated

around every three years, even if your wishes have not changed, to let USS know that your wishes are current.

The [Registration of potential dependant form](#) and the [Expression of wish form](#) can be found on My USS. And you can find them by going to the quick links section here on [Keeping your beneficiaries up to date](#) and then click on [Update loved ones](#) in here.