

Child assistance

Supplement for Handicapped Children

Financial assistance for children with an impairment
or developmental disorder



It's all on-line

The information contained in this document is also available on our Web site. There you can find the **most up-to-date information** and amounts.

Use our on-line services:

- ▶ Direct deposit;
- ▶ Change of address;
- ▶ Change in conjugal status;
- ▶ Calcul@ide;
- ▶ Forms and publications.

Sign up for our Liaison RRQ e-notification service...

It's free!



www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca

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Supplement for Handicapped Children

The child assistance measure administered by the Régie des rentes du Québec provides for the payment of a supplement for handicapped children.

The purpose of the supplement for handicapped children is to provide families with financial assistance for raising, caring for and educating a handicapped child. **The handicap must be serious.**

You are entitled to a supplement for handicapped children if...

- ▶ you are eligible for child assistance payments;
- ▶ your child has a **handicap** that **significantly limits** him or her in carrying out daily activities for a period expected to last **for at least one year.**

What are daily activities?

They are the activities in which a child participates, depending on his or her age, with respect to personal care and social life. They include eating, getting dressed, communicating, learning and moving about.

How we establish whether a child's handicap is serious

The seriousness of the handicap is evaluated by the medical advisors at the Régie des rentes du Québec, in accordance with the criteria defined in the *Regulation respecting the Taxation Act* pertaining to the supplement for handicapped children. Schedule C.1 of the Regulation specifies the eligibility requirements for handicaps related to developmental disorders and impairments.

For more information about the eligibility requirements, see our Web site (www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/enfants) or call us.



If a child's situation does not correspond to the cases described in Schedule C.1 of the Regulation, the seriousness of the handicap is assessed according to the following three criteria:

1 **Incapacities** that remain, even though available measures to make the child's life easier are used.

For example:

- ▶ The child continues to have serious visual difficulties even though he or she wears corrective lenses.

2 **The obstacles the child encounters in his or her environment.**

For example:

- ▶ The child needs a special layout at home, daycare or school (e.g., access ramp);
- ▶ The child uses a wheelchair or walker.

3 **The constraints for the child's family.**

For example:

- ▶ You must provide exceptional assistance to dress, feed or wash the child.

Filing an application

You must complete the Application for a Supplement for Handicapped Children form and return it to the Régie. Be sure to provide the documents requested.

Part of the form must be completed by the health professional (physician, physical therapist, psychologist, or other professional) who assessed or has treated the child and is most familiar with the child's condition.

Moreover, to obtain the supplement for handicapped children, you and your spouse must file a Québec income tax return every year, even if one or both of you have no income to report. New arrivals in Québec may be required to provide a statement of income, or a Notice of Assessment issued by the Canada Revenue Agency, if they have not filed a Québec income tax return.

The application form for the supplement is available on our Web site, at Services Québec and at CLSCs.

Payment

Amount

In 2011, the supplement is 174\$ a month, regardless of the handicap or family income. The amount is not taxable and is indexed in January of each year.

Important!



The supplement can be paid retroactively for a maximum of 11 months before you filed an application, if your child met the eligibility requirements during that period.

Payment frequency

The supplement is paid with the child assistance payment on **the first working day of every quarter** (i.e., 4 times a year).

- ▶ In July for the months of July, August and September;
- ▶ In October for the months of October, November and December;
- ▶ In January for the months of January, February and March;
- ▶ In April for the months of April, May and June

If you would prefer to receive your payment every month, you must apply by Internet or telephone.

In cases of shared custody

If you share custody of a child and a supplement for handicapped children is being paid for that child, the amount of the supplement will automatically be divided between the 2 parents. The Régie considers that shared custody exists when a child resides with each parent between 40% and 60% of the time each month. The amount paid to each parent is half of what the parent would have received if the child were not in shared custody.

Important!

You must notify the Régie if you share custody.

End of payment

Payment of the supplement ends when your child turns 18 or before if the child's condition improves or he or she no longer meets the eligibility requirements.

To verify whether your child's condition has improved and determine whether you are still entitled to the supplement for him or her, the Régie may, in some cases, require a reassessment. The frequency depends on the child's handicap and situation.

Direct deposit: a logical choice!

Take advantage of the many benefits direct deposit has to offer. You'll also be making a smart choice for the environment.

Sign up now by Internet or telephone.

Your satisfaction is our priority!

Our commitment

In its Service Statement, the Régie has committed itself to replying within a maximum of 90 days, provided the medical information initially received is sufficient for it to assess the handicap and render a decision. We cannot begin processing your application until we have your application form and the section of the form completed by the health professional.

For information about all our commitments and our results, see the *Service Statement* on our Web site.



The Services Commissioner

If you are not satisfied...

The Services Commissioner handles complaints and comments with complete independence and confidentiality. The Services Commissioner can make recommendations to improve our programs and services.

To reach the **Services Commissioner**, simply call the Régie. You can also use the direct e-mail service on our Web site.



How to reach us



By Internet

www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/enfants



By telephone

Québec region: **418 643-3381**
Montréal region: **514 864-3873**
Toll free: **1 800 667-9625**



By TTY

Service for the hearing impaired
Toll-free: **1 800 603-3540**

This publication does not have force of law. In cases of conflicting interpretation, the *Taxation Act* (division II.11.2) and the sections of the *Regulation respecting the Taxation Act* pertaining to the supplement for handicapped children prevail.

This publication is available in alternate format free of charge by calling 1 800 463-5185.

Version originale française disponible sur demande.