



Allowance and income

You are receiving money from the social services department or from the Job Centre and you wish to work and earn your own money. What do you have to pay attention to?

Employment is the best way to integrate into society. Those who work have new experiences, improve their language skills and make new acquaintances. Those who work and earn enough money to live on, receive no money from the social services department (“Sozialamt”) or from the Job Centre. If you take on a paid job, you must inform your case worker. Your case worker will then check your salary. If it is not enough to live on, you will continue to receive money from the social services or the Job Centre – perhaps a little less as before, because you now receive additional money from your work.

Why is that so?

The social services and the Job Centre only give money to people, who cannot help themselves. That is a principle of the German social welfare system in Germany. However, each case is different, so that the authorities deal with each one individually.

Why must I inform the social services or the Job Centre?

If I do not inform the social services or the Job Centre of my employment, then maybe I will have to pay back the money later.

Please note: Please speak to your case worker at the social services or the Job Centre before you begin working, so that they can calculate how much effect your future earnings will have on your allowance.

Can my allowances be completely stopped, if I am earning money myself?

Yes. A higher income can result in you not receiving any money from the social services. Speak to your case worker before you begin working.

Please note: If you receive or are to receive other benefits such as child allowance or housing allowance, you must inform the Job Centre or the social services of this.

Do you have to inform the social services or the Job Centre about other forms of income?

Yes. You must give details of all forms of income without regard to where the money came from. The social services or the Job Centre will then calculate what all other income affects your allowance.

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