

Chapter F1: Child Element

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Legislation Used in Chapter F1

Abbreviation	Full Title
UC Regs (NI) 16	The Universal Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 No. 216
WR (NI) Order 15	The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 No. 2006
Children (NI) Order 95	The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 No. 755
E&T Act (NI) 50	Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950
UC (TP) Regs (NI) 16	The Universal Credit (Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 No. 226
Adoption (NI) Order 87	The Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 No. 2203
SS C&B (NI) Act 92	Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992
Sexual Offences (NI) Order 08	The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 No. 1769
WR (NI) Order 15 (Comm No. 8 etc) Order 17	The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2017 No. 190
Criminal Injuries Compensation (NI) Order 02	The Criminal Injuries Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 No. 796
Family Homes and Domestic Violence (NI) Order 98	Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 No. 1071

Chapter F1: Child Element

Introduction

F1001 Support for children will be made within Universal Credit by a child element and, where appropriate, a disabled child addition. The eligibility for the inclusion of such amounts is based on each child or qualifying young person for whom the claimant is responsible.

F1002 – F1003

Child element qualifying conditions

General

F1004 **[See ADM Memo 3/26]** The claimant's maximum amount should include an amount for a maximum of two

1. children **or**
2. qualifying young people

for whom the claimant is responsible¹. See F1007 - F1008.

1 WR (NI) Order 15, art 15

F1005

Restrictions

F1006 For the period from 27.9.17 to 31.1.19 the child element was awarded only in respect of the first and second child or qualifying young person in the claimant's household¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25A(1)(a)

F1007 From 1.2.19 all children or qualifying young people born before 6.4.17, for whom the claimant is responsible, are transitionally protected¹ and a child element will be payable.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25A(3)

F1008 From 28.11.18, children who are adopted or in non-parental caring arrangements are disregarded when determining the order of children (see paragraphs F1018 - 1021)¹. A child element is payable for any child or qualifying young person in these arrangements, and any born before 6.4.17 (see paragraph F1007), as well as any other children or qualifying young people who qualify for the exceptions in F1016 et seq.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25A(za); Sch 12, para 3 & 4

F1009 A child element will not be payable for the third or subsequent child or qualifying young person born on or after 6.4.17, unless they qualify for an exception (F1016).

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25A(1)(b)

F1010 – F1015

Exceptions

F1016 There are 3 categories that fall into the exception specified at paragraph F1008

1. multiple births (paragraph F1017)
2. non-consensual conception (paragraph F1022 - F1024)
3. continuation of existing exception (paragraph F1030 - F1031).

Multiple births

F1017 An exception applies where

1. the claimant is a parent (other than an adoptive parent) of the child
2. the child was one of two or more children born as a result of the same pregnancy
3. the claimant is responsible for at least two of the children born as a result of that pregnancy
4. the child is not the first in the order of multiple birth children established under paragraph F1033¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 2

Example

A couple have two children Jack aged 5 and Jill aged 3. Twins Alex and Luke are born on 20.12.17. The claimant is the parent of and responsible for the twins. They were born as a result of the same pregnancy and the decision maker decides that Alex is first in the child order of the twins. The claimant is entitled to a child element for Jack, Jill and a child element for Luke under the multiple birth exception criteria. (Luke is not considered to be the first child in the decision maker's order of the twins).

Adoptions

F1018 An exception applies¹ where

1. the child or qualifying young person has been
 - 1.1 adopted **or**
 - 1.2 placed for adoption

with the claimant under legislation².

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 3; 2 Adoption (NI) Order 87

- F1019 The exception at paragraph F1018 does not apply where the claimant or, if the claimant is a member of a couple, the other member
1. was, immediately prior to the child's adoption, a step parent of the child **or**
 2. has at any time been a parent of the child **or**
 3. adopted the child under a convention adoption order or an external adoption¹
or
 4. had already adopted the child under the law of any country or territory outside the British Islands (see paragraph F1038).

1 Adoption (NI) Order 87, art 2

Non-parental caring arrangements

- F1020 An exception applies where the claimant is
1. a friend or family carer of the child **or**
 2. responsible for a child who is also a parent of a child¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 4

Example

A couple have two children Jack aged 10 and Jill aged 15, Jill has a son Alex born on 20.12.17. As the claimant is responsible for Jill (who is the parent of Alex), he is entitled to a child element for Jack and Jill and also for Alex under the exception criteria.

- F1021 For the purposes of paragraph F1020 **1.** the term friend or family carer means a person who is responsible for the child, but is not that child's parent or step parent **and**
1. is named in a residence order, under legislation¹, as a person with whom the child is to live **or**
 2. is entitled to a guardian's allowance in respect of that child² **or**
 3. is a guardian of the child³ **or**
 4. fell within any of the above (**1. to 3.**) immediately prior to the child's 16th birthday and has since continued to be responsible for that child⁴ **or**
 5. has taken care of the child in circumstances in which it is likely that child would otherwise be looked after by an authority such as the Health and Social Care Trust⁵.

Note: In an informal caring arrangement the family carer should provide evidence from a social worker to support the declaration that the child would otherwise be looked after by an authority.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 4(2)(a); Children (NI) Order 95, art 8;

2 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 4(2)(b); SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 77;

3 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 4(2)(c); Children (NI) Order 95, art 159 & 160;

4 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 4(2)(d); 5 para 4(2)(e)

Non-consensual conception

F1022 An exception applies where

1. the claimant is the child's parent **and**
2. the decision maker determines (see paragraph F1024) that
 - 2.1 the child is likely to have been conceived as a result of sexual intercourse to which the parent did not agree by choice or did not have the freedom and capacity to agree by choice **and**
 - 2.2 the parent is not living at the same address as the other party to that sexual intercourse¹.

Note: For **2.2** the decision maker should accept the claimant's statement confirming that they were not living at the same address as the other party².

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 5(1); 2 para 5(4)

F1023 The freedom or capacity to agree by choice, as required at paragraph F1022 **2**, includes, at or around the time the child was conceived, such circumstances in which

1. the parents were personally connected **and**
2. one parent was repeatedly or continuously engaging in behaviour towards the other parent that was controlling or coercive **and**
3. that behaviour had a serious effect on the recipient¹.

Note 1: The parents are personally connected if they are in an intimate personal relationship with each other or they were living together and were members of the same family or they were living together and had previously been in an intimate personal relationship with each other².

Note 2: The behaviour will have had a serious effect where it causes fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against the parent or it causes serious alarm or distress which has a substantial adverse effect on the parent's day to day activities³.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 5(2); 2 para 5(5); 3 para 5(6)

F1024 The decision maker can only make the determination, as described at paragraph F1022 **2.1**, where

1. the child's parent provides evidence (that evidence will probably take the form of a completed pro forma) from an approved person that shows
 - 1.1 they had contact with that approved person (see paragraph F1037) or another approved person **and**
 - 1.2 their circumstances are consistent with those of a person to whom **1.** and **2.1** of paragraph F1022 would apply **or**
2. there has been
 - 2.1 a conviction for an offence of rape under legislation¹ **or**
 - 2.2 a conviction for any offence under the law of a country outside Northern Ireland that the decision maker considers to be comparable to the offence mentioned above **or**
 - 2.3 an award under the Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in respect of a relevant criminal injury sustained by the parent and the decision maker considers it likely that the offence or injury (**2.1** to **2.2** above)
 - 2.4 was caused by one parent **or**
 - 2.5 diminished the other parent's freedom or capacity to agree to the sexual intercourse

which resulted in the conception of the child².

Note 1: No time limit is placed on when the report needs to be made to the approved person after the actual incident that resulted in the pregnancy, in order to be eligible for the exception.

Note 2: There is no requirement to provide evidence from an approved person where the decision maker is satisfied that the same evidence had already been provided to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in relation to a Child Tax Credit exception³.

¹ *Sexual Offences (NI) Order 08, art 5*; ² *UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 5(3)*;

³ *UC (TP) Regs (NI) 16, reg 43(2)*

F1025 – F1029

Continuation of existing exception - previous Universal Credit award

F1030 An exception applies¹ where none of the exceptions listed at **1.** to **4.** of paragraph F1016 are triggered and the claimant

1. is the child's step parent **and**
2. had previously been entitled to Universal Credit as a member of a joint claim couple with the child's parent where that child fell under one of the multiple birth, adoption or non-consensual conception exceptions **and**
3. since the previous award ended each subsequent Universal Credit award was as a consequence of
 - 3.1 the previous award having ended when the claimant ceased to be a member of a couple **or**
 - 3.2 the previous award ending when they became a member of a couple with another claimant **or**
 - 3.3 any other circumstances which result in retaining assessment periods for that award that begin on the same day of each month² as the assessment period for a previous award.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 6; 2 reg 22

F1031 An exception also applies where, in the previous award mentioned at F1030 **2.** a multiple birth exception applied

1. the step parent was also responsible for one or more children or qualifying young persons born as a result of the same pregnancy as the child **and**
2. the child was not the first in the order established under paragraph F1033¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, Sch 12, para 6(e)

Continuation of an exception from a previous Child Tax Credit/Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance award

F1032 The claimant is treated as satisfying¹ the exception described at paragraph F1030 where the claimant

1. is the step-parent of a child or qualifying young person **and**
2. within the 6 months immediately preceding the first day on which the claimant became entitled to Universal Credit they had an award of Child Tax Credit, Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance in which an exception corresponding with the Universal Credit exceptions of

- 2.1 multiple birth
 - 2.2 adoption
 - 2.3 non-consensual conception
 - 2.4 continuation of an existing exception
- applied.

Note: Where it is 2.4 (the continuation exception equivalent) that is considered, the claimant should be treated as satisfying the test of paragraph F1030 2. despite the previous award not being an award of Universal Credit.

1 UC (TP) Regs (NI) 16, reg 42(1)

Order of children

F1033 The order of children or qualifying young persons in the claimant's household is established by reference to the date of birth of each child or qualifying young person for whom the claimant is responsible, taking the earliest date first¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25B(1)

F1034 Any child or qualifying young person to whom F1018 - F1020 and F1030 applies is to be disregarded when determining the order of children¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25B(2A)

Example

Kevin and Penny already have two children, Tom aged 5 and Dick aged 3, when they adopt Harry who is aged 6, for the purposes of the two child limit the order of children arranged by considering date of birth and date of responsibility is Tom, Dick then Harry.

F1035 The order of the children or qualifying young persons in the claimant's household should be determined by the decision maker to ensure the greatest number of children qualify for the child element¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25B(2)

Example

Kevin and Penny are the parents of Dick aged 3 and the guardian of Tom aged 5, when Harry is born. They formally adopt Tom on 10.7.17 and Harry was born on 20.11.17. For the purposes of the two child limit the order of children arranged by considering date of birth and date of responsibility should be Dick, Tom then Harry however under this configuration Kevin wouldn't qualify for a child element for Harry. The order is re-arranged in to the more beneficial order of Dick, Harry then Tom.

Kevin now qualifies for the child element for all 3 children as Tom falls into an exception.

F1036

Definitions

Approved person

F1037 An approved person is a person of a description specified on an approved list.

Note: The approved list will be of professionals who are trained to deal with such sensitive situations and with whom it would be beneficial for the claimant to engage in order to obtain relevant guidance and support.

British Islands

F1038 The British Islands means the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

F1039 Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme has the meaning specified in legislation¹.

1 Criminal Injuries Compensation (NI) Order 02

Members of the same family

F1040 Parents are members of the same family where

1. they are, or have been married to or civil partners of each other
2. they are relatives as specified in legislation¹
3. they have agreed to marry each other
4. they have entered into a civil partnership agreement under specified legislation²
5. they are both parents of the same child
6. they have, or have had, parental responsibility³ for the same child.

1 Family Homes and Domestic Violence (NI) Order 98, art 2(2);

2 Civil Partnership Act 2004, sec 197; 3 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 5(2)

Relevant criminal injury

F1041 Relevant criminal injury means

1. a sexual offence (including a pregnancy sustained as a direct result of being the victim of a sexual offence)
2. physical abuse of an adult, including domestic abuse
3. mental injury

as described in the tariff of injuries in the Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

Step-parent

F1042 In relation to a child or qualifying young person a step-parent is a person who is not the child's parent but

1. is a member of a couple, the other member of which is a parent of the child, where both are responsible for that child **or**
2. was previously a member of a couple, the other member of which was a parent of the child, where immediately prior to ceasing to be a member of that couple the person was, and has since continued to be, responsible for that child¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 2

F1043 – F1055

Who is the responsible person?

F1056 The responsible person is

1. the person with whom the child or qualifying young person normally lives¹ **or**
2. where the child or qualifying young person normally lives with two or more persons who are not a couple, the person who has main responsibility².

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(2); 2 reg 4(4)

F1057 – F1059

Normally lives

F1060 "Normally lives" is not defined in legislation and should be applied with a focus on the normal pattern of living rather than the amount of time spent with a particular person, or in a particular place, and "normally lives with" can include both minority and majority carers.

Note: Which person gets Child Benefit is not taken into account.

Example 1

Alan and Frances have a daughter, Gail, who lives from Monday to Friday with her grandmother. She spends the majority of weekends and all school holidays with her mother and father. This arrangement has been in place for some time and is Gail's normal pattern of living. She therefore normally lives with her parents and normally lives with her grandmother. The decision maker will need to determine who has main responsibility for Gail.

Example 2

Alan's 14 year old son Eric has recently left the care of the Health and Social Care Trust. He spends Monday to Thursday nights with his mother, Frances and Friday to Sunday nights with his father Alan and stepmother Barbara. Eric normally lives with Frances for part of each week and normally lives with Alan for the balance of each week.

Example 3

Marcus and Leanne are separated and share the care of their twins girls April and Amber. April lives with Marcus on weekdays, as he lives closer to her school, but spends weekends and part of the school holidays with her mother and sister. She is registered with her school as living at Marcus's address. Amber is disabled and Leanne cares for her at home full time. Amber has been awarded Disability Living Allowance. Marcus works full time and has not claimed any benefits. Leanne makes a new claim to Universal Credit for herself, April and Amber.

The decision maker decides that April normally lives with Marcus and also normally lives with Leanne. Leanne is awarded the child element and the disabled child addition for Amber, but the decision maker will need to determine who has main responsibility for April.

F1061 – F1062

Main responsibility

F1063 Where the child or qualifying young person normally lives with two or more persons who are not a couple, the deciding factor will be the person who has main responsibility. Who has that main responsibility¹ should be decided between the persons with whom the child or qualifying young person normally lives.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(4)

F1064 If

1. joint agreement cannot be reached as to which person has main responsibility
or
2. in the opinion of the decision maker the choice of person with main responsibility does not reflect the actual arrangements

the decision maker may determine which person has main responsibility¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(5)

Who can have main responsibility?

F1065 If the decision maker is required to determine who has main responsibility they should note that main responsibility is not defined in regulations and should be given the meaning of the person who is normally answerable for, or called to account for the child or young person. In determining who has the main responsibility for a child or young person consideration should be given to:

1. Who makes day to day decisions about the child's welfare including, for example, arranging and taking them to visits to the doctor or dentist or enrolling and taking the child to and from school?
2. Who provides the child with clothing, shoes, toiletries and other items needed for daily use?
3. Who is the main contact for the child's school, doctor and dentist?
4. Who cares for the child when the child is ill?

This list should not be considered exhaustive.

Example 1

Alan lives with his partner Barbara, his daughter Caroline aged 15 and Caroline's 1 year old daughter, Danielle. Alan and Barbara support Caroline to care for Danielle. Caroline has returned to school and does not receive any support from Danielle's father. Danielle has a long term health condition. As Caroline is 15, Alan has registered Danielle with the general practitioner and is also the main contact for the hospital where Danielle has regular appointments. Caroline usually takes Danielle to appointments accompanied by Alan. When Danielle is ill, Alan and Barbara take care of her so Caroline can attend school and complete her coursework. Alan becomes unemployed and claims Universal Credit for Barbara, Caroline and Danielle.

As Danielle lives with both Caroline and Alan equally they need to nominate which of them has main responsibility; they cannot decide. The decision falls to the decision maker who decides that Alan has main responsibility for her as he provides food, clothing, toiletries and all other items needed for her welfare and maintenance. He

also is the main contact for the general practitioner and hospital although Caroline also attends the appointments. The decision maker also takes Caroline's age into account as, at 15, she is below the minimum age needed to make her own claim to Universal Credit and Alan is still responsible for her.

Note: When Caroline becomes 16 the family may agree that she should now have main responsibility for Danielle and Caroline can claim Universal Credit as a lone parent. Danielle and Caroline would be removed from Alan's claim.

Example 2

Philip and Susan are divorced and have a son, Michael, who is 12 years old. Michael spends alternate weeks living with Philip or Susan throughout the year. Philip and Susan both pay equal fixed sums into a joint account each month which is used to buy clothing, shoes and other items Michael needs as well as paying for any school related expenses. Philip works part time and Susan is unemployed. Philip and Susan each claim Universal Credit with their new partners. Both want to add Michael to their claim and cannot agree on which of them should receive the child element.

The decision maker decides that Michael normally lives with both of his parents and that they both contribute equally to his day to day needs. However, the decision maker discovers that Susan makes appointments and takes Michael to the general practitioner and to dentist appointments even if it is a week in which Michael is staying with Philip. Philip and Susan jointly decide which school to enrol Michael in but Susan is the primary contact and always attends parent's evenings. Susan also shops for items that Michael needs. The decision maker decides that Susan has main responsibility and awards the child element to her.

F1066 – F1068

Who is not the responsible person?

F1069 A person cannot be responsible for a qualifying young person with whom they live as part of a couple¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(3)

Example

Jane is aged 17 living as a couple with Tom aged 20. Jane is still in education and meets the criteria to be a qualifying young person therefore Tom cannot be responsible for her.

F1070 A child or qualifying young person is not treated as being the responsibility of any person when the child or young person is

1. being looked after by an authority¹ (other than in the circumstances described at F1073) **or**
2. being held in custody pending trial or sentencing **or**
3. in custody serving a sentence imposed by a court **or**
4. on temporary leave from prison under specified legislation².

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 2(1); 2 reg 4(6)

Example

Jason (a qualifying young person) and part of his parents' Universal Credit benefit unit, is sent to prison for 4 months. Although Jason will be absent for less than 6 months his parents are no longer treated as responsible for him and the child element is removed from the first day of the assessment period in which he became a prisoner.

Note: As Jason's imprisonment is for a period of less than 6 months his parents can retain their renter's bedroom allocation.

Looked after by an authority

F1071 A looked after child is one where the Health and Social Care Trust has responsibility for that child's maintenance and care including a duty¹ to accommodate the child and have a care plan. The child may be placed with a foster parent, another family member, their parent or a person who has parental responsibility.

1 Children (NI) Order 95, art 26

F1072 If the child is looked after, the Health and Social Care Trust will be obliged to provide financial support and the responsible parent will no longer be eligible for the child element, other than in the circumstances described in F1073.

Example

3 year old Tom had been in the care of the Health and Social Care Trust following the death of his mother. His grandmother, Susan, applied for and was granted a Special Guardianship Order and awarded Special Guardianship Allowance. The Health and Social Care Trust ceased to have responsibility for Tom from the date of the Special Guardianship Order and Susan became the responsible person. Susan is entitled to the child element and the Special Guardianship Allowance is not taken into account (ADM H5002).

Looked after child at home

F1073 A child or qualifying young person is treated as still normally living with the responsible person during a period where they are looked after by the Health and Social Care Trust because they are on

1. a short break **or**
2. a series of short breaks¹

for the purpose of providing respite for the person who normally cares for the child or qualifying young person.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 5

Note: Children receiving respite care will not all be looked after. The Health and Social Care Trust can provide short breaks without giving the child looked after status.

Example 1

Stan is taken into the care of the Health and Social Care Trust and is placed with foster parents. He is looked after by the Health and Social Care Trust, therefore no

temporary absence period is allowed and he is removed from his parent's award from the first day of the assessment period in which he was taken into care.

Example 2

Matthew has a severely disabled son, Ryan, who normally lives with him and for whom Matthew is a full time carer. Ryan's social worker, Vicky, has assessed that Matthew needs a break from caring and that Ryan might benefit from interacting with other people. She puts a care plan in place under which she arranges for Ryan to spend one weekend each month living in a Health and Social Care Trust run residential care home for children. Vicky confirms that while he is accommodated in the residential care home, Ryan will be considered looked after by the Health and Social Care Trust, but that this status ends when Ryan is returned home.

The decision maker decides that Matthew will continue to be eligible for the child element and disabled child addition during Ryan's series of short breaks for respite care and during which he has looked after status.

Example 3

Matthew successfully applies for Ryan to attend a residential school for disabled children in another town. Over the course of a year, Ryan will stay at the school for three terms each lasting for 10 to 12 weeks, separated by school holidays. He will return home to Matthew during school holidays and on some weekends. Ryan will not stay in the residential school for longer than 12 weeks before returning home. Vicky confirms that Ryan will not be considered looked after by the Health and social Care Trust while accommodated in the school. Matthew is able to visit Ryan at the school when he wishes to do so.

Matthew is able to continue to receive the child element and disabled child addition as for each of Ryan's absences from home he is not considered to be looked after.

- F1074 A child or qualifying young person is treated as still normally living with the responsible person where they are looked after by a Health and Social Care Trust and placed with
1. their parent **or**
 2. a person who has parental responsibility for them¹.

¹ UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 5

Note: A person does not have parental responsibility if they are a foster parent.

F1075 A child or qualifying young person is treated as still living with the responsible person for any period during which the child or qualifying young person is placed for adoption under the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 5(1)

F1076 The duration of a short break, described at F1073, is not prescribed but decision makers should note that any single period of absence (for whatever reason) that exceeds or is expected to exceed 6 months will mean the person is no longer responsible for the child.

Note: See ADM Chapter F3 for how this effects the room allocation for housing costs.

Example

Vicky visits Matthew and Ryan and her assessment shows that Ryan is benefiting from his time in the residential care home for children. She arranges for Ryan to spend three months living in the residential care home for medical reasons after which time he will return home to Matthew. Vicky confirms that Ryan will be looked after by the Health and Social Care Trust while he is in the residential care home.

Matthew will not be eligible for the child element or the disabled child addition as Ryan has become looked after for a reason other than respite care.

Note: Matthew will become eligible for the child element and disabled child addition when Ryan returns home.

F1077 – F1079

Child or qualifying young person temporarily absent

General absence

F1080 A child or qualifying young person may be absent and living away from the responsible person and benefit unit. In certain circumstances a claimant will cease to be responsible for an absent child or qualifying young person.

F1081 Do not treat the claimant as responsible for a child or young person where that child or young person is

1. absent from the household **or**
2. expected to be absent from the household

for 6 months¹ or more.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(7)(a)

Example 1

Nick is absent from his mother's house for 6 weeks during the school holidays during which time he is living with his father in Bangor. Nick is temporarily absent and still included in his mother's benefit unit for the whole period of absence.

Example 2

Jack is absent in hospital for an unknown period. He is considered to be temporarily absent for the next 6 months. After 5 months Jack's parents report that he will have to remain in hospital for at least a further 3 months. The decision maker is now aware that the absence period will exceed 6 months (5 months already passed + anticipated 3 months) and so Jack is removed from his parents' benefit assessment. This change in circumstances will be effective from the first day of the assessment period in which the notification of Jack's prolonged stay is received.

Temporarily absent from Northern Ireland

F1082 Do not treat the claimant as responsible for a child or young person where that child or young person is

1. absent **or**
2. expected to be absent

from Northern Ireland for 1 month¹ or more.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(7)(b)

F1083 The absence period in F1082 above can be extended by up to a further month¹ if the temporary absence is in connection with the death of a close relative of the child or qualifying young person. See F1141 for the meaning of close relative.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(7)(b) & 11(2)

Example 1

Nick is absent from his mother's house for 6 weeks during the school holidays during which time he lives with his father in Spain. No temporary absence period is allowed and he is removed from his mother's assessment from the outset of his absence.

Example 2

Nick is absent from his mother's house for 4 weeks during the school holidays during which time he lives with his father in Spain. Nick is temporarily absent during which time his mother retains the child element.

F1084 The absence period in F1082 can also be for a duration of up to 6 months¹ where that absence is in connection with the child or qualifying young person undergoing

1. treatment for an illness or physical or mental disability by, or under the supervision of, a qualified practitioner **or**
2. medically approved convalescence or care as a result of treatment for an illness or physical or mental disability, where the person had that illness or disability before leaving Northern Ireland.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 4(7)(b) & 11(3)

Note: "Medically approved" means¹ certified by a medical practitioner.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 11(5)

F1085 – F1099

Run on after death

F1100 Where

1. a claimant's award of Universal Credit includes an amount for a child or qualifying young person for whom they are responsible **and**
2. that child or qualifying young person dies

the appropriate child element will continue in payment until the end of the second assessment period following the assessment period in which the death occurred¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 39

Example

Steve and Janet are entitled to Universal Credit for themselves including an allowance for their son Max. Their assessment period runs from the 10th of each month. Max dies on 12.8.18. The child element is included in the Universal Credit award until 9.11.18.

F1101 – F1109

Rates of allowance

F1110 There will be a separate rate of child element¹ for the

1. first child or qualifying young person born before 6.4.17²
2. first child or qualifying young person on or after 6.4.17 and the second and each subsequent child or qualifying young person.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 38(1)

Child element	
First child or qualifying young person born before 6.4.17 (if applicable)	£333.33
First child born on or after 6.4.17, second and each subsequent child or qualifying young person (if applicable)	£287.92

F1111 – F1119

Disabled child addition

F1120 In addition to the child element described at F1055, a further amount is included in the calculation of the Universal Credit maximum amount for each child or qualifying young person who is disabled¹. This will be awarded at either a lower or a higher rate. If a child element is not in payment for a child or qualifying young person solely because of the two child limit (F1004), a disabled child addition can be paid for that child or qualifying young person.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25(2)

F1121 **[See ADM Memo 5/25]** Disabled is not defined but for the purpose of this addition should be taken to mean a person who is

1. blind **or**
2. entitled to Disability Living Allowance, Child Disability Payment, Adult Disability Payment or Personal Independence Payment.

Rate of disabled child addition

F1122 **[See ADM Memo 5/25]** Unless F1123 applies, the lower rate of disabled child addition¹ is included where the child or qualifying young person is

1. entitled to Disability Living Allowance **or**
2. entitled to Child Disability Payment **or**
3. entitled to Adult Disability Payment **or**
4. entitled to Personal Independence Payment.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25(2)(a)

F1123 The higher rate of disabled child addition¹ is included where the child or qualifying young person is

1. entitled to the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the highest rate **or**
2. entitled to entitled to the care component of Child Disability Payment at the highest rate **or**
3. entitled to the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment at the enhanced rate **or**
4. entitled to the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment at the enhanced rate **or**

5. blind².

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25(2)(b); 2 reg 25(2)(b)(ii)

Additional amount for disabled child or qualifying young person	
Lower rate	£156.11
Higher rate	£487.58

Run on after death

F1124 Where

1. a claimant's award of Universal Credit includes a disabled child addition for a child or qualifying young person for whom they are responsible **and**
2. that child or qualifying young person dies

the disabled child addition will continue in payment until the end of the second assessment period following the assessment period in which the death occurred¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 39

F1125 – F1138

Definitions

Blind

F1139 A person is blind¹ where they are certified by a consultant ophthalmologist as

1. blind or
2. severely sight impaired.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 2

Child

F1140 Child means¹ a person under the age of 16.

Note: There is no need for the child to be receiving education for this definition to apply.

1 WR (NI) Order 15, art 46

Close relative

F1141 A close relative in relation to a person means¹

1. parent
2. parent-in-law
3. son
4. son-in-law
5. daughter
6. daughter-in-law
7. step-parent
8. stepson
9. stepdaughter
10. brother
11. sister
12. where any of 1. - 11. is a member of a couple, the other member of the couple.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 2

Parental responsibility

F1142 Parental responsibility means all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property¹.

1 Children (NI) Order 95, art 6

Qualifying young person

F1143 A qualifying young person is a person who has reached the age of 16 but not the age of 20 and who is

1. aged 16 years, but only for the period up to, but not including, the 1st September that next follows their 16th birthday
2. aged up to 19 years, but only for the period up to, but not including, the 1st September that next follows their 19th birthday where they are enrolled on, or accepted for

2.1 approved training¹ or

2.2 a course of education

2.2.a which is not advanced education

2.2.b at a school, college or other establishment that is approved by the Department

2.2.c where they spend on average more than twelve hours a week during term time in receiving tuition doing examinations or practical work or supervised study

this must not include meal breaks or unsupervised study, including homework, whether done on or off the premises of the educational establishment².

Note 1: Where the young person at **2.** above is aged 19, they must have started the course of education or training, or been accepted or enrolled on it before reaching that age³.

Note 2: The education or training described in **2.1** and **2.2** does not include education or training that is provided through a contract of employment⁴.

Note 3: A person shall be treated as undertaking a course of full time education during the period between the end of one course and the start of another where the person is accepted for or enrolled on the latter course.

Note 4: Where a child or qualifying young person turns 16 or 19 on the 31st August the period described at **1.** and **2.** will end on that same day.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 6(4); 2 reg 6(1); 3 reg 6(2); 4 reg 6(3)

F1144 A young person is no longer a qualifying young person¹ if their course or approved training ends after 1 September following their 16th birthday, but before the 1 September following their 19th birthday. The child element will cease from the first day of the assessment period in which the course or approved training ends.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 6(1)

Example

Maxine, aged 17, completed her final A level exam on 2.0.20. Her A level courses ceased at the end of the summer term, i.e. 25.7.23. From that date she is no longer enrolled on a course of education and is therefore not a qualifying young person. A child element will no longer be payable in respect of her from the first day of the assessment period in which the 25.7.23 falls.

F1145 Any person who falls within F1143 is not a qualifying young person if they are receiving Universal Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 6(5)

Approved training

F1146 Approved training means training provided in Northern Ireland directly or indirectly by a training organisation pursuant to its arrangement with the Department¹ under the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 whether that agreement is known as an operating agreement or by any other name.

1 E&T Act (NI) 50, sec 3

Non-advanced education

F1147 Non-advanced education means any course up to, and including, the standard of

1. ordinary national diploma
2. BTEC national diploma
3. GCE (advanced level)
4. National certificate of Edexcel.

F1148 – F9999

The content of the examples in this document (including use of imagery) is for illustrative purposes only