

Sickness Plan: FAQ

How do I apply for a Sickness Plan?

You can apply online or download an application form from our website. You can also contact the Membership team on 01474 567050 who will be happy to assist you with your application.

Who can apply for the Sickness Plan?

Anyone who is in good health and able to work at the time of the original application, is a UK resident, between the ages of 16 and 60 and able to pay premiums by direct debit.

Is any line of work acceptable?

We do not assess your line of work and our premiums are not adjusted to any risks associated with any occupational risk.

What is covered by the Plan?

The Sickness Benefit Plan will pay you £100 per week sickness benefit - **please note that the first 7 days of sickness are not covered by the Sickness Benefit Plan.**

Will my premium go up after my Plan is set up?

Premiums published on the website and application form are inflation proof and guaranteed throughout the Sickness Benefit Plan term. Your initial premium rate is based on your age when joining the Society.

These increase gradually as you get older reflecting an increasing sickness risk. As you move to the next age band your premium will increase to the next level. The Society will notify you at least 15 days in advance of any change to your direct debit payment.

Sickness benefit ends at age 70. Beyond this, members have the following options

1. Continue as a Society member by paying £10 per month membership fee providing access to the full range of discretionary benefits including death benefit. When members reach age 85, premiums end and free life membership is provided.
2. Notify the Society via email, phone or post you wish to cancel membership with no exit fees.

How long does it take before my Plan is effective?

The Sickness Benefit Plan and Society membership will start once the application has been accepted and the first contribution has been paid.

Is there a Qualifying Period?

The Sickness Benefit Plan must have been running for a minimum of 13 weeks before you are eligible to claim and no payment of Sickness benefit will be made for the first 7 days of sickness.

Is the Plan flexible

In the event Gravesham Friendly launch a different variation of the Sickness Plan, this plan is flexible. Members will be able to cancel this plan and transfer across to a new version without ending their membership or needing to complete a new waiting period.

Are my benefits taxed?

No – your benefits are paid to you tax-free.

Please be aware that whilst Gravesham Friendly's Sickness Benefit Plan and discretionary benefits are currently tax free, HMRC taxation rules could change in the future causing the benefit payments to become taxable.

How do I make a claim?

Claim forms are available at graveshamfriendly.co.uk/claiming-benefits, download or print off the relevant claim form, complete and return it to info@graveshamfriendly.co.uk or post to our head office.

Can I continue with my Policy if I change employment?

Yes, if you change job, are seeking employment or move into full time education you can continue your Sickness Benefit Plan.

Do I need to tell you if I change my address?

Yes, so that we can continue to contact you in respect of your Sickness Benefit Plan and Society membership. Please download and complete the change of details form provided at graveshamfriendly.co.uk and send to info@graveshamfriendly.co.uk or contact the Membership team on 01474 567050.

Cancellation Rights

After the proposal is accepted you will receive a Notice of your right to cancel. You will then have 30 days in which you can change your mind. If you cancel within this 30 day period, you will receive a full refund of any contributions paid.

How do I terminate my Sickness Benefit Plan and Society membership

After 30 days membership, you can terminate your Society membership at any time by notifying the Society at info@graveshamfriendly.co.uk or the Membership team on 01474 567050. There are no cancellation charges and if relevant, premium refunds will be calculated reflecting Sickness and Discretionary benefit claims made in the last 12 months.

Tax

If the Plan is maintained in full force until death or maturity, the benefits payable are currently free of all UK income and capital gains taxes. In addition, the fund in which contributions are invested is tax exempt and thus free from taxes on income and capital gains, with the exception of tax deducted from dividends on shares the Society invests in.

Law

In any legal disputes, the law of England and Wales will apply.

Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint, feel you have been treated unfairly or are not satisfied with any aspect of the Society, its products or services, please contact our Head Office by post, email or phone (these details are noted below).

If the complaint is not dealt with to your satisfaction you can refer your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service, Exchange Tower, London E14 9SR (Telephone 0800 023 4567). Following this complaint procedure does not affect your right to take legal action.

Compensation

If Gravesham Friendly is unable to meet its liabilities, compensation may be payable by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Further information on the scheme is available from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme on 020 7892 7300 or at www.fscs.org.uk

Regulation

Gravesham Friendly is the trading name of Anglo-Saxons Friendly Society which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Registered and incorporated under the Friendly Societies Act 1992, register number 189F.

When you take out a Sickness Benefit Plan with Gravesham Friendly you become a Member of the Society and are subject to its rules, a copy of which is available on the website.

Head Office
Gravesham Friendly
The Old Rectory
Northfleet
Gravesend
DA11 8HN
T:01474 567 050
W:www.graveshamfriendly.co.uk
E:info@graveshamfriendly.co.uk

Please Note

These notes are based on the Society's understanding of current law and Inland Revenue practice, which may be subject to change, and provide a guide to the key features of the product. Full details are contained in the Policy Schedule and Terms and Conditions. This Plan is a legally binding contract between you and Gravesham Friendly.