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Date

Our reference

Contact

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SEB.13/14-MS

Natascha Endema

Dear Sir or Madam

Change in the Dutch National Survivor Benefits Act (Anw)

This letter is to inform you about a change in the law in the Netherlands that will take effect on 1 July 2013. The change affects people who receive a dependent child allowance under the National Survivor Benefits Act (Anw).

Currently, the Anw scheme provides for a survivor benefit for people who have lost their partner, a dependent child allowance for children under 18 who have lost one parent, and an orphan's benefit for children who have lost both parents.

Due to the change in the law, the dependent child allowance will be discontinued and the maximum survivor benefit for people with a child under 18 will be increased to 90% of the net minimum wage.

Commencement date

For people whose entitlement to a dependent child allowance starts on or after 1 April 2013, the change will take effect on 1 July 2013. For people whose entitlement started before 1 April 2013, the change will take effect on 1 October 2013.

Consequences for our clients

The change will affect clients in one of the following three ways:

- People who only receive a dependent child allowance will lose this allowance. This means their income will go down.
- People who receive a survivor benefit and a dependent child allowance will lose the allowance but their survivor benefit will be increased to a level based on 90% of the net minimum wage. Other income will be taken into account for the calculation of the benefit.
- People who receive a dependent child allowance and who are also entitled to a survivor benefit which is not paid because of their other income, will lose their dependent child allowance. but their survivor benefit will be increased to a level based on 90% of the net minimum wage. Depending on the amount of their other income, they may either start to receive a partial survivor benefit or their other income may still be too high for payment of a survivor benefit.



Information to beneficiaries

All beneficiaries whose dependent child allowance started before 1 April 2013 can expect to receive a letter from the SVB around mid April informing them about the change. In July 2013, these beneficiaries will receive an official decision about the change in their entitlement as from 1 October 2013. The decision will set out the consequences and, if applicable, include a breakdown of the new amount they will receive. Information about the change is also available on our website and in our information leaflets.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Sociale Verzekeringsbank

Ms Mirjam Schuit

Head, International Affairs