



The Furniture Makers' Company the furnishing industry's charity

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your enquiry about receiving help from The Furniture Makers' Company.

In order for us to consider your application, please complete and return the attached application form as fully as possible.

Eligibility

To be eligible for financial assistance, you must normally have a minimum of two years' employment service in any capacity within the UK furnishing industry.

Applications from partners and dependents of deceased employees can also be considered, where 'dependent' is defined as an individual who is financially or emotionally dependent upon the industry employee either through age (under 18) or due to mental or physical disability.

We also request that you provide documentary evidence of your employment within the UK furnishing industry, such as:

- A letter/email from your employer confirming employment dates
- Employment contract
- Redundancy letter
- Payslip/pension advice slip or P45
- You can give us written permission to contact your employer directly, in order to speed up the processing time of the application.
- If you are self-employed, please send us any relevant documentation, for example two years' tax returns.

If you have no evidence of your employment, please complete the HM Revenue and Customs form, which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-proof-employment-history>

Unfortunately, it can take up to eight weeks or more for you to receive the information from HMRC, so applicants are encouraged to provide alternative employment confirmation where possible.

Grants can be awarded for:

- Essential household items
- Essential household bills
- Funeral expenses
- Disabled adaptations
- Property repairs considered essential due to age, security or access
- Disabled / medical equipment
- Respite / convalescent breaks
- General financial hardship
- Pre-tenancy costs and removal costs

Grants are not normally agreed for:

- Assistance towards the clearance of consumer credit debt. In such cases you will need to talk to appropriate professional debt advice organisations.
- Bankruptcy fees and Debt Relief Orders. In such cases you will need to approach alternative appropriate charities, for example Turn2Us.
- Legal costs
- Private education fees
- Replacement of statutory funding
- Non-essential home improvements
- Ongoing financial assistance
- Loans of any kind
- Memorial stones
- Holidays

Please enclose with your application any relevant supporting documentation such as:

- Copy of a recent bank statement
- Quotes or invoices from suppliers
- Copies of any outstanding household bills
- Relevant reports or letters from Occupational Therapists or doctors
- Relevant supporting letters from caseworkers

Important note

Applications cannot be processed unless you have signed the declaration at the end of the application form.

If you have any queries please do contact us for help.

Robin Lomas, Welfare Officer: 020 7562 8528 Email: welfareofficer@furnituremakers.org.uk

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