



Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

המשרד לקליטת העלייה

The State of Israel
Director General

Refund of the Special Payment According to Section 58 of the National Health Insurance Law

1. Within the framework of Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption (hereafter to be known as – the Ministry) has created a campaign to encourage the return of Israelis considered "returning residents" according to Ministry regulations.
2. Within the framework of the Campaign, recognized eligible "returning residents" will be refunded the special payment made to the National Insurance Institute (hereafter to be known as the special payment) (hereafter to be known as the Institute), according to section 58 of the National Health Insurance Law, 5754-1994 (hereafter to be known as the Institute) – section 58).

Payment per person, to date, is NIS 8,730 (1,455 per month) (to be updated in January, 2008).

3. Conditions of eligibility for refund of the special payment:
 - a. Recognition as a 'Returning resident' according to Ministry of Immigrant Absorption guidelines.
 - a. According to section 58, special payment begins during the period between 1.11.07 and 30.12.08.
 - b. Payments are made to the Institute for six consecutive months.
 - c. The applicant returns to Israel during the period between 1.11.07 and 31.8.09.

4. Clarifications:

- a. Relevant dates for Ministry refund of the special payment –
 - 1.11.07 - Special payment installments to the Institute can commence from this date, whether from abroad or from Israel.
Return to Israel can begin from this date.
Payment or return to Israel prior to this date is not eligible for a refund.
 - 30.12.08 – The latest date for commencing payment to the Institute.
Payment begun after this date will not be included in the campaign.
 - 31.8.09 - The final date for returning to Israel – eligibility for a refund requires returning to Israel no later than this date.

- b. Please note that according to section 58, returning residents are required to return to Israel within 18 months of commencing payment.

For example, payment commenced on 1.11.07 requires return to Israel no later than 1.5.09 (and not 31.8.09), for purposes of eligibility for National Health Insurance.

- c. The period determined by the Institute for eligibility for health services is six complete months from the date of the first payment. (For example, if the first payment is made on 1/11/07, the sixth payment will be on 1/4/08. However, eligibility for health services begins only from 1/5/08). The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption will refund the special payment upon completion of 6 months following the first installment of the special payment, (and not following the sixth installment, which occurs one month prior to completion of the 6 months).

- 5. Eligible returning residents will receive the refund directly into their bank account following return to Israel

- 6. It should be noted that:

- a. According to section 58, the special payment refund does not determine eligibility for health insurance. After returning to Israel, the returning resident, having made the special payment, must consult directly with the Institute in order to clarify eligibility for health insurance.
- b. Eligibility for National Health Insurance requires returning to Israel and becoming a resident of the country, according to the rules set by the Institute. (Residency can be proven in various ways, such as the sending of goods to Israel, the renting of an apartment, an employment agreement, registration of children in schools, etc.)

To reduce the residency-approval period by the Institute, documents proving residency can be sent to the Ministry before returning to Israel, and these will be transferred to the Institute. However, final approval of residency will be given by the Institute only after returning to Israel.

- 7. To participate in the campaign, go directly to the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption Website: www.moia.gov.il for a detailed explanation.

To make the special payment go to the National Insurance Institute Website - www.btl.gov.il - and click on "redemption of the waiting period" on the main menu.

- 8. The refund depends on filling in a questionnaire, being recognized as a "returning resident" by the Ministry, payment to the Institute of the special payment in 6 equal monthly installments, receipt of a "returning resident" certificate after returning to Israel and opening a bank account in Israel.

- 9. Clarification of the connection between refund of the special payment and Ministry regulations for eligibility:

- a. Approval of recognition as a returning resident will be granted prior to the applicant's return date to Israel, provided that the candidate

meets the following condition: "the applicant did not visit Israel for a consecutive or cumulative period exceeding four months of each year for the last two years before returning to Israel".

- b. A "returning resident" spouse in an immigrant family (immigrant + returning resident + child born abroad) is entitled to the refund, in addition to the assistance provided to an immigrant family.
- c. An immigrant whose period of rights has been extended and who returns to Israel during the relevant period will be able to choose between their extended immigrant rights and "returning resident" rights, including the refund.

The above does not apply to an immigrant leaving Israel within the first year following aliyah. In such a case, the immigrant will be obliged to continue within the regular assistance framework or new immigrants.