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Kindergeld beantragen — Step by Step

How to apply for Kindergeld at the Familienkasse. Requirements, documents, and deadlines for foreign families in Germany.

Deutsche Begriffe: Kindergeld | Familienkasse | Kinderzuschlag | Elterngeld

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What is Kindergeld?

Kindergeld is a state benefit for families in Germany. Since 2023, it amounts to **€250 per month per child**. It is generally available to all parents living in Germany — including foreigners with a valid residence permit.

Who is eligible?

- Parents with **residence in Germany** (registration required)
- EU citizens: automatically eligible
- Non-EU citizens: with a **residence permit** that authorizes employment
- Child must be **under 18 years old** (up to 25 if in vocational training/studies)

⚠ **IMPORTANT: Only 6 months retroactively!**

Kindergeld is only paid **6 months retroactively**. Submit your application as early as possible!

What documents do you need?

1. Kindergeld application (Form KG 1) — online or at Familienkasse

2. **Birth certificate** of the child (with apostille or certified translation)
3. **Tax ID** of the child and the parent applying
4. **Registration certificate** (proof of registration)
5. **Residence permit** (copy, for non-EU citizens)
6. For children abroad: additional documents (Form KG 51)

Where do you apply for Kindergeld?

At the **Familienkasse** of the Federal Employment Agency:

- **Online:** www.arbeitsagentur.de → Familienkasse
- **In person:** at your local Familienkasse office
- **By mail:** complete forms and send them

Processing time

Processing typically takes **4-6 weeks**. During peak times, it can take up to 3 months.

Kinderzuschlag — Additional support

If your income is low, you can apply for additional **Kinderzuschlag** (up to €250/month per child). Requirement: you already receive Kindergeld and your income is insufficient.

Avoid common mistakes

- Submitting application too late (claim expires after 6 months)
- Forgetting the tax ID (no payment without it)
- Submitting birth certificate without translation
- Not reporting address changes (Kindergeld will be suspended)

Tips

- The **tax ID** is automatically sent by mail — approx. 2-4 weeks after registration
- You can submit your application before receiving your tax ID
- For questions: free hotline of Familienkasse **0800 4 5555 30**

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