

Singapore Expands Shared Parental Leave to 10 Weeks From 1 April 2026 â?? Hereâ??s What Parents Need to Know

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If you or your partner are expecting a baby, hereâ??s some great news: as of 1 April 2026, Singapore has officially expanded its **Shared Parental Leave (SPL)** entitlement from 6 weeks to **10 weeks**. This means eligible working parents of Singapore citizen children born on or after 1 April 2026 now have access to up to **30 weeks of total paid parental leave** in their childâ??s first year â?? a significant boost for families across the island.

Whatâ??s Changed?

Previously, Singapore parents could share up to 6 weeks of Government-Paid Shared Parental Leave. Under the enhanced scheme, this has increased to 10 weeks. When combined with the existing 16 weeks of Government-Paid Maternity Leave (GPML) and 4 weeks of Government-Paid Paternity Leave (GPPL), families now have access to a combined total of 30 weeks of paid leave.

The enhanced SPL is designed to give fathers â?? and mothers â?? greater flexibility in how they divide caregiving duties during the critical first year of their childâ??s life. The additional 4 weeks of SPL can be shared between both parents based on what works best for their family.

Who Is Eligible?

To qualify for the enhanced Shared Parental Leave, parents must meet the following criteria:

For the mother: She must have been employed for at least 3 continuous months before the birth of her child, and the child must be a Singapore citizen.

For the father: He must have been employed for at least 3 continuous months before the birth, be lawfully married to the childâ??s mother at the time of birth (or subsequently marry her), and the child must be a Singapore citizen.

For self-employed parents: Self-employed mothers and fathers are also eligible, provided they have been engaged in their business, trade, or profession for a continuous period of at least 3 months before the birth.

How Does It Work in Practice?

Under the enhanced SPL framework, the 10 weeks can be allocated in several ways. For example, a mother could transfer some of her maternity leave weeks to the father as shared parental leave. Alternatively, the father could use his 4 weeks of paternity leave plus additional shared weeks to spend more time with the newborn.

The key principle is flexibility. The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) recognises that every familyâ??s situation is different. Some mothers may want to return to work sooner, while some fathers may want to take a more active caregiving role from the start. The expanded SPL accommodates both scenarios.

Employers are required to honour these leave entitlements, and the Government covers the cost of the leave through the Government-Paid Leave scheme, so the financial burden does not fall on businesses.

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Why This Matters for Singapore Families

Singapore has been making steady strides in supporting working parents, and this enhancement is part of the broader national effort to make parenthood more compatible with careers. The move was first announced during the National Day Rally 2024 and has been eagerly anticipated by many parents and parents-to-be.

For many Singaporean families, the first year of a childâ??s life is the most demanding â?? and the most expensive. Between confinement care, paediatric visits, childcare arrangements, and the sheer exhaustion of round-the-clock feeding schedules, having an extra 4 weeks of shared leave can make a real difference.

Research consistently shows that paternal involvement in the early months has long-term benefits for child development, the coupleâ??s relationship, and the motherâ??s mental health. By enabling fathers to take more time off, Singapore is sending a clear signal that caregiving is a shared responsibility.

Large Families Scheme Gets a Boost Too

In related news, the Governmentâ??s **Large Families Scheme** has also been enhanced. From 2026 onwards, Large Family LifeSG Credits will be disbursed in April each year for eligible children aged 1 to 6. Families with three or more Singapore citizen children are eligible for these additional credits, which can be used for educational, healthcare, and other family-related expenses.

This is part of the Governmentâ??s broader push to support larger families and ease the financial pressures that come with raising multiple children in Singapore.

Upcoming Family Events in April 2026

If youâ??re a parent looking to connect with others or pick up new skills, there are several family-focused events happening this month:

Co-Parenting Workshop (18 April 2026): Designed for parents going through separation or divorce, this workshop features a divorce coach who explains the emotional and relational shift from partner to co-parent. Itâ??s a practical session with actionable takeaways.

Family Emergency Preparedness Session (24 April 2026): Learn how to prepare your family for emergencies, from natural disasters to household accidents. This session covers first aid basics, emergency kits, and communication plans for families with young children.

What You Should Do Now

If youâ??re expecting a baby on or after 1 April 2026, hereâ??s what you should do:

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Talk to your employer. Make sure your HR department is aware of the enhanced SPL entitlement. While the Government has published the guidelines, some companies may need time to update their internal policies.

Plan your leave early. Discuss with your partner how youâ??d like to divide the shared leave. Having a plan in place before the baby arrives will make the transition smoother.

Check your eligibility on the LifeSG app. The LifeSG app is the most convenient way to check your entitlements, apply for benefits, and track disbursements like the Baby Bonus and Large Families Scheme credits.

Visit the MSF website for the full details of the enhanced Shared Parental Leave scheme, including FAQs and application procedures.

The Bigger Picture

Singaporeâ??s total fertility rate has been a persistent concern for policymakers, and measures like enhanced parental leave are part of the Governmentâ??s multipronged approach to making Singapore a better place to raise a family. While leave policies alone wonâ??t reverse demographic trends, theyâ??re an important piece of the puzzle â?? alongside childcare subsidies, housing grants for young families, and workplace flexibility initiatives.

For now, though, the message to new and expecting parents is simple: youâ??ve got more time with your little one. Make the most of it.



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