

Can You Get a Bereavement Fare on Delta? Rules, Eligibility & Tips

IRFLY
POLICY

Can You Get a
Bereavement Fare
on **DELTA**?

Rules, Eligibility & Tips

+1-888-212-0809

Know the Rules | Check Eligibility | Helpful Tips

Travel with Peace of Mind During Difficult Times

You're Not Alone

When a family emergency requires last-minute travel, airfare can become an added concern during an already difficult time. [Delta bereavement fares](#) are designed to provide eligible SkyMiles members with additional flexibility when traveling because of the death of an immediate family member. Delta also notes that a lower regular fare may sometimes be available, so it is worth comparing both options.

If you need help understanding your options or arranging travel, you can also contact a travel assistance service at +1-888-212-0809.

What Is a Delta Bereavement Fare?

A bereavement fare is a special fare option intended for eligible passengers who need to travel following the death of an immediate family member. It is not simply a percentage discount applied to every Delta ticket.

Instead, the policy is designed primarily to provide last-minute booking flexibility and certain waived service fees, although the actual fare and any fare difference depend on the itinerary and availability.

One important point: these fares cannot be purchased directly through [delta.com](#). Eligible travelers need to contact Delta and speak with a representative.

Who Qualifies for Delta Bereavement Travel?

Delta's policy is available to SkyMiles members who need to travel because of the death of an immediate family member. If you are not already a SkyMiles member, Delta says you may enroll and then request the fare.

Delta's definition of immediate family includes:

- Spouse or domestic partner
- Parent, stepparent, or parent-in-law
- Child, stepchild, or son/daughter-in-law
- Brother or sister, including step- and in-law relationships
- Grandparent or grandchild
- Aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew

Documentation may be requested and is subject to verification.

What Are the Rules for Domestic Bereavement Fares?

For [Delta bereavement fares domestic](#) travel, the policy applies to eligible Delta and Delta Connection flights within the 50 United States, as well as certain travel between the United States and Canada, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Key rules include:

- The ticket must be purchased and travel must begin within seven days of the death.
- Reservations must be ticketed immediately.
- Availability is not guaranteed on every flight.
- Service fees may be waived, but fare differences can still apply.
- Standard baggage fees remain the passenger's responsibility.
- Lower promotional fares may sometimes cost less than the bereavement option.

This last point is especially important. A bereavement fare should not automatically be assumed to be the cheapest ticket.

Does Delta Offer a Bereavement Discount?

Yes, Delta maintains a bereavement fare program, but travelers should think of it as a special fare with flexibility, rather than a guaranteed fixed-price discount.

The amount you pay depends on the available fare for your route and travel dates. Delta specifically states that lower promotional fares may be available through its normal booking channels.

That means a smart approach is to compare:

1. The bereavement fare offered by a Delta representative.
2. Regular fares currently available on [delta.com](#).

3. The flexibility offered by each option.
4. Any applicable fare difference, baggage charges, or other costs.

How Do You Book a Delta Bereavement Fare?

Because these fares are not available for online purchase, you need to contact Delta directly. Delta currently instructs travelers to use its Message Us option or call Delta Reservations at 800-221-1212.

Before contacting Delta, prepare the information that may be requested:

- Your SkyMiles information
- Name of the deceased family member
- Your relationship to the deceased
- Funeral home, hospital, or hospice information when applicable
- Desired departure and return dates
- Origin and destination
- Preferred flight times

Having these details ready can make an emotionally difficult booking process much smoother.

Can You Change a Bereavement Fare?

One of the major advantages of the policy is flexibility. Delta says its bereavement policy can waive service fees for changes to the outbound and/or return portion of the trip, although fare differences may still apply.

For domestic travel, Delta's policy also allows certain same-day travel options without the usual fee, subject to the applicable rules and availability.

However, flexibility does not mean every change is free. If the new flight has a higher applicable fare, you may still need to pay the difference.

What About International Bereavement Travel?

Delta also has a separate policy for international bereavement travel. International itineraries can have additional restrictions, and the rules are not identical to domestic travel.

For international trips, it is particularly important to contact Delta before purchasing a ticket so the representative can explain the applicable fare and documentation requirements.

Helpful Tips Before You Book

When arranging urgent travel, a few simple steps can prevent unnecessary costs and delays:

- Compare prices: The special fare is not guaranteed to be cheaper than a regular promotional fare.
- Book quickly: Eligible travel is tied to the seven-day timeframe under Delta's current policy.
- Have documentation ready: Delta may verify the information provided.
- Ask about change rules: Find out whether your expected return date can be changed and what fare differences could apply.
- Check the operating carrier: The bereavement policy has specific restrictions regarding eligible Delta-operated, Delta-marketed, and Delta Connection flights.
- Ask about baggage: Standard baggage fees generally still apply.

Can You Get a Refund If a Family Member Dies?

Delta's broader ticket rules may provide relief when a passenger cannot travel because of the death of an immediate family member. Its contract of carriage states that Delta may waive certain fare restrictions, with supporting documentation such as a death certificate or obituary notice subject to verification.

Because refund eligibility can depend on the ticket and circumstances, contact Delta before cancelling whenever possible.

FAQs About Delta Bereavement Fares

Does Delta still offer bereavement fares?

Yes. Delta currently offers a bereavement fare policy for eligible SkyMiles members traveling because of the death of an immediate family member. The fare must be arranged through Delta rather than purchased directly online.

How soon do I have to travel after a family member dies?

For domestic bereavement travel, the ticket must be purchased and travel must begin within seven days of the death. Documentation may be required for verification.

Is a Delta bereavement fare always cheaper?

No. Delta states that lower promotional fares may sometimes be available. The main benefit of the bereavement policy can be its additional flexibility, rather than a guaranteed lower price.

Conclusion

Last-minute travel after the loss of a loved one can be stressful, but understanding Delta's bereavement policy can make the process easier. Eligible SkyMiles members may receive access to special fares and additional flexibility, but availability, documentation, route restrictions, and fare differences all matter.

Before booking, compare the bereavement option with Delta's regular fares and ask specifically about change, refund, and same-day travel rules. For assistance with understanding your flight options, visit a trusted travel support website or call +1-888-212-0809.

About the Author

Peggy Carter is a professional travel writer who creates practical, research-driven guides to help travelers navigate airline policies with confidence.