
Reform Planned for Parental Allowance by the new German Government for 2007

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Aims of the planned leave legislation
(family and demography rhetoric)

* „We need more children in families and more family within society“: encouraging family building

* („Without children the country will have no future“)

* strengthen father involvement in parenting, gender equality
Parental leave and benefit at present and plan for 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual Status</th>
<th>Plan 2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length of leave</strong></td>
<td>36 months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Paid for</strong></td>
<td>24 months</td>
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<td></td>
<td>300/450 for budget option 18 months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Who?</strong></td>
<td>both parents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

„must for fathers“: 2 months
further aspects of planned legislation

low-income and families not gainfully employed minimum payment

costs 3 billion €

integrate all transfer payments to families into one system: „Familienkasse“ according to the French „caisse familiale“ = recommendation of the 7th family report commission and other bodies
Questions raised by new legislation project

critical points: „social justice“ – uneven treatment of family work according to market income (conservative and catholic organisations, trade-unionists, few voices from the red-green spectre)

enforcing, not encouraging labour market integration of mothers with children under 3

low level of public and media awareness „windows of opportunity“