



Carer's Allowance (CA)

What is Carer's Allowance?

Carer's Allowance is a weekly benefit paid to someone who spends 35 hours a week or more caring for someone who receives **Attendance Allowance**, **Disability Living Allowance** - care component at the middle or higher rate or **Personal Independence Payment** - daily living component, at either rate.

- It is not affected by any savings you may have.
- You cannot be paid Carer's Allowance if you earn more than £120.00 a week (after certain expenses are deducted).
- You must be over 16 and not studying on a full time course.
- You must not be subject to immigration control and must pass the UK residence presence tests.

What if you are told you cannot be paid this benefit?

Some people cannot be paid Carer's Allowance because it overlaps with another benefit they receive, such as a Retirement Pension, Contributory Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit.

Carer's Allowance is currently £64.60 per week. Benefits, such as Retirement Pension, are likely to be more than this and therefore you can only receive the higher of the two benefits.

If Carer's Allowance is not paid, it is still worth claiming, as you will have an 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance. Having this 'underlying entitlement' entitles you to add an additional premium on some benefits. This is called a carer premium.

The carer premium is £36.00 a week and in some cases this could mean you are entitled to

Pension Credit, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax support for the first time or receive extra entitlement to these benefits if you already receive them.

For example:

- 1** - Rosie is 66 and cares for her sister Molly who lives with her. Molly is in receipt of Attendance Allowance so Rosie can claim Carer's Allowance, as she meets all the usual conditions.
- 2** - Rosie gets £102.15 a week Retirement Pension, which is more than the £64.60 Carer's Allowance she would receive. She cannot be paid Carer's Allowance.
- 3** - She receives a letter telling her this, which she can use as proof of her 'underlying entitlement'.
- 4** - She is already getting Pension Credit but once she informs the Pension Service of her 'underlying entitlement letter' from Carer's Allowance she gets an extra £36.00 a week added to her Pension Credit.

Or

- 1** - Robert is a lone parent, who cares for his disabled son Sam who has muscular dystrophy. Sam is getting the middle rate care component of Disability Living Allowance.
- 2** - Robert works part-time and earns £20 per week. He claims Income Support of £73.10, Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit.
- 3** - He claims Carer's Allowance of £64.60 which is treated as income for means tested benefits such as Income Support. Therefore, his Income Support is reduced by the Carer's Allowance amount of £64.60. However, the carer premium of £36.00 is added back on. So his overall income increases by £36.00 because he qualifies for the carer premium on his Income Support.

In some cases it is possible for both members of a couple to get the carer premium as well as additional premiums such as the severe disability premium.

For example:

1 - John and Mavis are a couple in their seventies. Both are disabled and both are in receipt of Attendance Allowance and get a small amount of Pension Credit. They each apply for Carer's Allowance for caring for one other.

2 - As they both receive a state Retirement Pension they are not paid Carer's Allowance. However, they both have an 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance.

3 - As they both receive Attendance Allowance, John and Mavis both get the severe disability premium added to their Pension Credit, paid at £64.30 per person. They will both get the carer premium because they both have an 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance.

4 - This means they get an additional 2 x £64.30 severe disability premiums, and 2 carer premiums of £36.00, increasing their overall income by £200.60.

Note: Sometimes the person being looked after may be getting the severe disability premium included in their own benefits.

In these cases it's **extremely important** to seek advice as any claim you make for Carer's Allowance **COULD** reduce the amount of benefit the person you care for gets.

To find a local advice agency that can provide advice on this and other benefits, please see the link below.

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/adultsocialcare/welfarebenefits/how-to-get-advice/benefits-advice-sessions/

How to make a claim for Carer's Allowance

Claim forms can be obtained by telephoning the Carer's Allowance Unit on 0800 731 0297 or online at: www.dwp.gov.uk/carersallowance

- You will need to make a claim for Carer's Allowance on the form DS700 or (DS700 (SP) if you are over pension age).
- You will then get a letter telling you if you have qualified and when you will be paid the allowance **or** that you have an 'underlying entitlement' but you cannot be paid as you are in receipt of another benefit e.g. a Retirement Pension.
- Keep this letter as proof of your 'underlying entitlement', if you will not be paid Carer's Allowance. This may entitle you to a carer premium which could be added to other benefits. See examples on this fact sheet for how this works.

If you need further advice on claiming Carer's Allowance, you can contact Nottinghamshire County Council for more information using the details provided below.

Contact information:

Phone: 0300 500 80 80
Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm
(Calls cost 3p a minute from a BT landline. Mobile costs may vary).

Email: enquiries@nottsc.gov.uk
Website: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk
Minicom: 01623 434993

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.