

Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit

Benefit and support you may get if you are caring for someone



Department
for Work &
Pensions

This leaflet is no longer current.
You can find up to date information on GOV.UK

Introduction

This leaflet:

- explains what Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit are
- asks some questions to help you decide if you may be able to get either Carer's Allowance or Carer's Credit and
- tells you how to claim them.

What is Carer's Allowance?

Carer's Allowance is a benefit for people who can't work full-time because they are caring for a severely disabled person.

Questions to help you decide if you may be able to get Carer's Allowance

Do you care for someone for 35 hours a week or more?

You may be able to get Carer's Allowance if you care for someone for at least 35 hours a week, and they are getting:

- the Daily Living part of Personal Independence Payment at the standard or enhanced rate, or
- Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest care rate, or
- Armed Forces Independence Payment, or
- Attendance Allowance, or
- Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal rate, with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, or

- Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full-day) rate with a War Disablement Pension.

How much do you earn?

You cannot earn more than the 'earnings limit'. This is £102 a week at the moment, after tax and National Insurance contributions and some other expenses have been taken off.

If you think that your earnings are likely to be more than £102 a week, contact the Carer's Allowance Unit to discuss your circumstances.

If you earn more than the earnings limit in a certain week, we won't pay Carer's Allowance for the following week.

Are you aged 16 or over?

You must be aged 16 or over to get Carer's Allowance.

Are you in education?

You cannot be in full-time education – for the purpose of Carer's Allowance that is doing 21 hours or more of supervised study each week. By supervised study we mean any study at a school, college, university or a similar educational establishment, including any work set by a tutor.

Does the disabled person have more than one carer?

We can only pay Carer's Allowance to one carer. The carers should decide who will claim.

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Do you care for more than one person?

Carer's Allowance can only be paid for caring for one person. If you care for more than one person you can only claim Carer's Allowance for one of them.

Do you live in Great Britain?

To get Carer's Allowance you must normally live in Great Britain. In most cases, you'll need to have spent a minimum of at least 2 out of the last 3 years in Great Britain before you can claim Carer's Allowance.

Do you live in a European Economic Area country (EEA) or Switzerland?

In some circumstances, if you live in another EEA country or Switzerland you may be able to claim Carer's Allowance.

Please contact the Carer's Allowance Unit Exportability Co-ordinator and tell them where you are living and that you want to make a claim.

Their address is:

The Exportability Co-ordinator
Carer's Allowance Unit
Palatine House
Lancaster Road
Preston
PR1 1HB

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You can find up to date information on GOV.UK



Phone: **0345 608 4321**



Email: **cau.exportabilityteam@dwp.gsi.gov.uk**

Note: The European Economic Area is made up of the 28 member states of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK), plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Have you been told by the Home Office that you cannot claim benefits because of your immigration status?

You can find out by checking your passport, or documents you may have received from the Home Office.

You will not usually be able to claim Carer's Allowance if you're subject to immigration controls, although there are a small number of exceptions. For more information contact the Carer's Allowance Unit.



Phone: **0345 608 4321**

Do you get any other benefits?

If you get certain other benefits which are paid at the same rate as Carer's Allowance or more, we cannot pay you Carer's Allowance.

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The benefits which may affect payment of Carer's Allowance in this way are:

- State Pension
- Incapacity Benefit
- contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance
- contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- a training allowance
- Unemployability Supplement: paid with Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit or War Disablement Pension
- Widow's Pension or Bereavement Allowance
- Widowed Mother's Allowance or Widowed Parent's Allowance
- Maternity Allowance
- Industrial Death Benefit
- Youth Training Allowance, and
- Employment Training Allowance or Employment Rehabilitation Allowance.

If you get one of the benefits listed above, we may not be able to pay you Carer's Allowance. **But you should still claim Carer's Allowance.** This is because, if you qualify for an 'income-related' benefit, you may get an extra amount called the Carer's Addition or Carer Premium. The income-related benefits you may be able to get are:

- Income Support
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit, or
- Housing Benefit.

You may also be able to apply for a reduction in your council tax. To find out more, contact your local council.

Please note: Claiming Carer's Allowance may reduce the amount of money you get from income-related benefits you may be claiming.



For more information go to:
www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

The government is changing the State Pension for people who reach State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016.

Men born on or after 6 April 1951 and **women born on or after 6 April 1953** will get a State Pension under the new system.

If you are already getting your State Pension, or will reach State Pension age before the new system begins in April 2016, you will be able to get or defer your State Pension under the existing rules.

Other questions about Carer's Allowance

Will it affect the benefit of the person I care for?

This depends on which benefit they get. Carer's Allowance does not affect:

- Personal Independence Payment
- Disability Living Allowance
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Attendance Allowance, or
- Constant Attendance Allowance.

However, if the disabled person has been getting extra money for severe disability with an income-related benefit or Pension Credit, this extra money will stop if you are paid Carer's Allowance. Income-related benefits are paid to someone who doesn't have enough money or savings.

If you think this will affect you or the person you care for, contact the Carer's Allowance Unit for advice.

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How do I claim?

You will need to fill in a form to claim Carer's Allowance.

You can get the form in 3 ways.

Online



You can go to:

www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

On the website, you can:

- claim online, or
- print out a blank claim form to fill in by hand and post to us.

By phone

You can call us to get a claim form and arrange help filling it in.



Phone: **0345 604 4321**

Textphone: **0345 604 5312**

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

If English is not your first language, you can use your own interpreter or, if appropriate we can provide one.

By post

You can write to us to ask for a claim form. Please tell us your name and address, which claim form you want and tell us if you need the form in large print.

Write to:

Carer's Allowance Unit
Palatine House
Lancaster Road
Preston
PR1 1HB

What is Carer's Credit?

Carer's Credit is a National Insurance credit. It helps to protect carers' basic State Pension and State Second Pension by making sure there are no gaps in carers' National Insurance record.

Carer's Credit will also protect the new State Pension entitlement for carers who reach State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016.

Do you care for one or more people for 20 hours or more a week?

If you care for one or more people for a total of 20 hours or more a week you may be entitled to Carer's Credit. Each person you care for must get one of the following benefits:

- the Daily Living part of Personal Independence Payment at the standard or enhanced rate, or
- Disability Living Allowance care part at the middle or the highest rate, or
- Armed Forces Independence Payment, or
- Attendance Allowance, or
- Constant Attendance Allowance

If the person being cared for doesn't get one of these benefits, you can also get Carer's Credit if you send us a completed **Care Certificate** signed by a health or social care professional.

It is up to you to find a health or social care professional to sign the certificate. By health or social care professional we mean a person who knows the care needs of the person you look after. This might be a:

- district nurse
- occupational therapist
- social worker
- MIND case worker, or
- community psychiatric nurse.

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Do you look after more than one person?

If you look after more than one person, then the number of hours you do altogether must add up to 20 hours or more a week, **and** either:

- each person you look after must get one of the benefits listed above, or
- you must send us a **Care Certificate** for anyone that doesn't.

Does someone else also look after the people you do?

You may still get Carer's Credit. But the number of hours you look after these people must add up to 20 hours or more a week.

How old are you?

To qualify for Carer's Credit you must be:

- aged 16 or over, and
- under State Pension age.

Other questions about Carer's Credit

Do I get any money?

We will not pay you any money if you are entitled to Carer's Credit. We will give you National Insurance credits.

How do I claim?

Online

You can download a copy of the claim form from the website:



Go to:
www.gov.uk/carers-credit

By phone

You can phone the Carer's Allowance Unit and ask for a claim form.



Phone: **0345 608 4321**
Textphone: **0345 604 5312**

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

If English is not your first language, you can use your own interpreter or, if appropriate we can provide one.

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Call charges

You can use the **0845** code to call any of our **0345** numbers. Check with your phone company which code is cheaper for you.

You can ask us to call you back if you're concerned about the cost of the call.

Textphones

Our textphone numbers are for people who cannot speak or hear clearly. If you don't have a textphone, you could check if your local library or citizens advice bureau has one. Our textphones don't receive text messages from mobile phones.

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You can find up to date information on GOV.UK

Important information about this leaflet

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of May 2014. It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

You can find more information about benefits and pensions online.



For benefits information go to:
www.gov.uk/browse/benefits



For pensions information go to:
www.gov.uk/browse/working/state-pension

We aim to provide a high quality of service to all our customers. You can find out more in our customer charter at www.dwp.gov.uk/about-dwp