

STEWARTS
THE LEGAL SERVICE

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE



Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a tax-free benefit paid to people who have reached state pension age who are physically or mentally disabled and need help with personal care and supervision to remain safe.

AA is not means tested (so income and savings will not be taken into account), nor is it dependent upon the amount of National Insurance contributions made.

Criteria

To qualify for AA, the following conditions must be met:

- You must have reached state pension age (if you are under state pension age, a claim should be made for Personal Independence Payment);
- You must not be in hospital or residential care paid for by the local authority;
- You must be habitually resident in the UK and have been in Great Britain for at least two of the last three years. You must not be subject to immigration control; and
- You must satisfy one of the disability tests and have satisfied that test over a six-month period in the two years before the award begins.

To satisfy one of the disability tests, you must be disabled to the extent that you require care from another person.

During the day

- Frequent attention throughout the day in connection with your bodily functions (bodily functions include eating, sleeping, getting in and out of bed, using the toilet, washing, dressing, etc.); or
- Continual supervision throughout the day in order to avoid substantial danger to yourself or others.

During the night

- Prolonged or repeated attention from another person in relation to your bodily functions; or
- In order to avoid substantial danger to yourself and others, you require another person to be awake for a prolonged period or at frequent intervals for the purpose of watching over you.



Rate

AA is paid at two rates:

Higher rate

You will qualify for the higher rate if you require the care described above during the day and night.

Lower rate

You will qualify for the lower rate if you require care either during the day or at night.

AA is paid four weeks in arrears into your bank or building society account. If you are unable to open or manage a bank or building society account, AA can be paid by Payment Exception Service.

Effect on other benefits

AA can be paid in addition to most other benefits, such as Pension Credit. It is ignored as income for means tested benefits, so does not reduce the amount of any Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit you may receive. However, it

may be taken into account in the means test for local authority services such as care.

If you receive Constant Attendance Allowance under the Industrial Injuries Scheme it will overlap with AA and therefore you will receive whichever is the higher. AA can trigger extra help with means tested benefits, therefore you should contact the pension service and local authority to inform them that you are receiving AA.

How to claim

To make a claim, complete the Attendance Allowance claim form (which can be accessed at www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance/how-to-claim).

You can also request a copy of the claim form by telephoning the Attendance Allowance helpline:

Telephone: 0800 731 0122
Textphone: 0800 731 0317

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