

STEWARTS
THE LEGAL SERVICE

CARER'S ALLOWANCE



If you take on caring responsibilities for a person with a long-term illness or disability, you may be entitled to claim Carer's Allowance.

Many people who qualify may not think of themselves as a carer. If you support someone who would find it difficult to manage daily tasks without your support, then you are likely to meet the criteria of having caring responsibilities.

Criteria

You could be eligible to claim Carer's Allowance if you satisfy the following criteria:

- You spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone with a long-term illness or disability (you are not required to live with them or be related to them). The type of care you provide may include the following:
 - helping with washing and cooking
 - taking the person you care for to a doctor's appointment
 - helping with household tasks, like managing bills and shopping

and

- the person you care for receives certain welfare benefits, including:
 - the higher-rate or middle-rate care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) **or**
 - either rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) **or**
 - any rate of Attendance Allowance (AA)

If you would like more information on DLA, PIP, or AA we have separate information leaflets available for each of these benefits.

and

- you are not in full-time education or studying for 21 hours a week or more

and

- you do not earn more than a certain amount

a week after Income Tax, National Insurance deductions and certain expenses. A calculation may need to be undertaken to see whether you would be eligible.

If you care for the person with others

Importantly, if you share your caring responsibilities with someone else you will not both be able to claim Carer's Allowance. If the other carer is in receipt of the extra amount of Universal Credit because they care for someone who gets a disability related benefit, this will also mean that you cannot claim Carer's Allowance. Should you and another carer both submit an application for Carer's Allowance, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will assess both of your claims and decide who should receive the benefit.

Immigration

Please note, if you have not been resident in the United Kingdom for at least two of the last three years you will not be able to claim Carer's Allowance unless you are a member of the armed forces.

Please also note that entitlement to welfare benefits like Carer's Allowance is often sensitive to immigration status. As such, if you are not a British citizen, it is advisable to seek guidance from organisations with expertise in immigration matters such as Migrants' Rights Network.

If you have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection to remain in the United Kingdom but otherwise have no recourse to public funds, you will also not need to have been present in the United Kingdom for two out of the last three years before making an application and may still be able to claim Carer's Allowance.

Carer's Allowance and other benefits

Carer's Allowance can affect the other benefits that both you and the person you care for get.

As a reminder, you are obliged to report any changes in your circumstances to the DWP.

Effect on the benefits of the person you care for

When you get Carer's Allowance, the person you care for will usually stop getting:

- any severe disability premium they receive which might be paid with their benefits
- any extra amount for severe disability paid with Pension Credit
- any reduced council tax.

You can check if these payments will stop by contacting whoever pays the benefit (such as the local council, Jobcentre Plus, or Universal Credit).

Effect on your benefits

When you claim Carer's Allowance your other benefit payments may change, but your total benefit payments will usually either go up or stay the same. You can use a benefits calculator such as the one on www.turn2us.org.uk to work out how your other benefits might be affected.

Universal Credit

Your Universal Credit payment will be reduced by an amount equal to your Carer's Allowance payment, though you may get an extra amount of Universal Credit for caring for someone who gets a disability related benefit (whether you get Carer's Allowance or not).

Carer premium

If you are already in receipt of other means-tested benefits such as Universal Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Employment and Support Allowance, or Jobseeker's Allowance you may be able to claim an additional element of your benefits award known as Carer Premium, Carer Addition and the Carer Element.

State Pension and Pension Credit

If you are in receipt of state pension, you cannot claim the full amount of both Carer's Allowance and your State Pension at the same time. If your pension is the same or more than the amount of Carer's Allowance a week, you will not be eligible for Carer's Allowance at all. If your pension is

less than Carer's Allowance, you will be entitled to a Carer's Allowance payment to make up the difference between the two benefits.

If you are in receipt of pension credit and your state pension is more than Carer's Allowance, you will not be entitled to an additional Carer's Allowance payment but your Pension Credit payments will be increased instead.

How to claim

You will need to apply for Carer's Allowance online.

New claims can be started [here](#).

If you are not able to apply online, you can complete the paper form available [here](#).

Once completed, you will need to return it by post to:

Carer's Allowance Unit
Mail Handling Sit
Wolverhampton
WV98 2AB

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