



# CLAIMING CARER'S ALLOWANCE

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Carer's Allowance is the main welfare benefit to help carers

## ELIGIBILITY

The person you care for must already get at least one of these benefits

- Personal Independence Payment - daily living component
- Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate
- Attendance Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension
- Armed Forces Independence Payment

You might be able to get Carer's Allowance if all of the following apply:

- you're 16 or over
- you spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone (you don't have to live with them or be related to them)
- you've been in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 of the last 3 years (this doesn't apply if you're a refugee or have humanitarian protection status)
- you normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or you live abroad as a member of the armed forces
- you're not in full-time education
- you're not studying for 21 hours a week or more
- you earn no more than £120 a week after tax (2018/19) and some expenses - these will be assessed when you apply
- you're not subject to immigration control.

If you get the State Pension you won't be paid Carer's Allowance. But don't be put off making a claim, because if you're eligible then you could be awarded extra Pension Credit or Housing Benefit instead.

If you're claiming Universal Credit, you may be able to get an extra amount because of your caring role without applying for Carer's Allowance. This is known as a carer element.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT PAY?

Carer's Allowance is £64.60 per week (for April 2018-19) and is usually paid every four weeks.

## WHAT IS CARER'S ALLOWANCE?

Carer's allowance is a benefit that pays money to someone to help them to look after a person in need of care.

Even if you don't think of yourself as an official "carer" you may still be entitled to claim it. You don't have to be related to, or live with, the person you care for.

It is extra money each week for you to use as you want or need to, in recognition of the fact that you are caring for someone and that this makes financial and other demands on you.

## HOW TO CLAIM

Call the Carer's Allowance Unit on 0345 608 4321 (textphone: 0345 604 5312) or visit GOV.UK to download a claim form or make a claim online: <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>. After you submit your claim, you'll receive a decision in writing that will tell you if you have been awarded Carer's Allowance and from what date.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT?

You can challenge a decision about your claim. This is called asking for mandatory reconsideration. It's important to ask for a mandatory reconsideration **as soon as possible**, as there is a one-month time limit for challenging a benefit decision. The deadline for you to request a reconsideration should be on your decision letter. If you have asked for a written statement of reasons for the decision, the one-month time limit can be extended by 14 days.

## CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCE

You must tell the Department of Work and Pensions if the person you're caring for dies. You must report any change in your circumstances if you're claiming or have applied for Carer's Allowance - this includes if you get a job, temporarily stop providing care for someone or stop being a carer altogether.

You can still get Carer's Allowance if you temporarily stop providing care for someone. This means any period when you spend less than 35 hours a week caring for the other person. For example, you could get Carer's Allowance for up to 12 weeks if either of you go into respite care or hospital and/or 4 weeks if either of you go on holiday

## DID YOU KNOW?

You'll also get National Insurance credits each week towards your pension if you're under pension age.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>
- Age UK : <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/carers-allowance/>
- Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/money-matters/carers-allowance>

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