

CARER'S ALLOWANCE

What is carer's allowance?

Carer's allowance is a benefit for people who regularly spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a disabled person. The amount of savings you have does not affect your carer's allowance.

What are the rules?

To get carer's allowance you must:

- be caring for a person who is receiving a qualifying benefit;
- be aged 16 or over;
- be caring for at least 35 hours a week;
- not be in full-time education (21 hours a week or more);
- not be earning more than £120 a week, if you have a part-time job (see below); *and*
- be present and resident in Great Britain (see below) and not be subject to immigration control.

Qualifying benefits

The following are '*qualifying benefits*' for carer's allowance:

- the daily living component of personal independence payment;
- either the highest or the middle rate of the care component of disability living allowance;
- attendance allowance;
- constant attendance allowance (of £69.90 or more) paid with the Industrial Injuries or War Pensions schemes; *or*
- armed forces independence payment.

How much do I get?

The rate is £66.15 from April 2019 per week for you. The amount of savings you have does not affect your carer's allowance. Carer's allowance can continue to be paid for up to 8 weeks after the person you care for has died.

How do I claim?

You claim on form DS700 (DS700(SP) if you get a state pension). These forms are available from a Jobcentre Plus office, Pension Centre or by calling:

Tel: 0800 7310297
Textphone: 0800 7310317
Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 5pm
Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Email: cau.cust

You can also download the forms from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-allowance-claim-form

You can also claim online at <http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim>

If you are over state pension age

If your state pension is less than your carer's allowance, you will be entitled to a top up of carer's allowance to that amount.

If your state pension is more than your carer's allowance, you won't actually get carer's allowance, but you will still have an '*underlying entitlement*' to it. This may help you to get an increase in any means-tested benefit you are receiving (such as income support).

What if I am working?

If you get carer's allowance, you are allowed to work but must earn no more than £123 a week after tax, national insurance contributions and half of any pension contributions have been taken into account.

If you pay someone to look after either the person you care for or any of your children who are under the age of 16, you can have up to half of these payments offset against any earnings you receive. You cannot do this if the payments are made to a close relative. A close relative is the parent, partner, son, daughter, brother or sister of a carer or the person being cared for.

Carer's allowance and means-tested benefits

If you are entitled to carer's allowance, you will get a '*carer premium*' included with any means-tested benefit (ie income support, income-related employment and support allowance, income-based jobseeker's allowance or housing benefit) that you are receiving. If you are on pension credit, you can get a similar '*additional amount for carers*' included in the pension credit.

If you receive another benefit, such as incapacity benefit, state pension or contributory employment and support allowance, which prevents you actually being paid carer's allowance, you can still get the carer premium/additional amount included in your means-tested benefit.

If you are paid carer's allowance, it may stop the person you care for from getting a severe disability premium (SDP) as part of their means-tested benefit. If you are not actually being paid carer's allowance, because you are on another benefit, you can still get the carer premium/additional amount and the person you care for can keep their SDP. Seek advice if you think that your claim for carer's allowance may adversely affect the benefit of the person who you care for.

Carer's allowance and universal credit

You can get a '*carer element*' included in your universal credit award if you are caring for a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week.

To qualify for universal credit, you may need to meet certain work-related conditions, known as requirements. These are recorded in a claimant commitment. If you have '*regular and substantial caring responsibilities*' for a severely disabled person, none of the requirements will apply to you.

If you need any further support or information please contact DIAL on 01736 759500 or you can refer directly to the link below:

www.disabilityrightsuk.org

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