



Carer's allowance

What is carers allowance?

Carer's allowance (CA) 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 CA.

What are the rules?

To get carer's allowance you must:

- be caring for a person who is receiving either higher or middle rate care component of disability living allowance, attendance allowance or constant attendance allowance of £54.80 or more (this is paid with the industrial injuries or war pensions schemes).
- be aged 16 or over
- be caring for at least 35 hours a week
- not be in full time education (21 hours a week)
- be present and resident in Great Britain

The residence and presence tests

To satisfy these tests you must:

- be ordinarily resident in the UK
- be present in the UK for 26 weeks in the last 12 months
- not be subject to immigration control. There are exceptions to this rule e.g. if you have refugee status or exceptional leave to remain or are a European Economic Area (EEA) national.

Ordinarily resident is not defined. It is taken to mean the place where you normally live for the time being if there is a degree of continuity about your stay and it can be described as being settled.

Present means physically present in UK.



How much do I get?

The rates are:

- £53.10 per week for you

If you have dependent children you may be able to get extra help by claiming child tax credit.

The amount of savings you have does not affect your CA.

CA continues to be paid for up to 8 weeks after the person you care for has died. You will still need to qualify under the other rules.

How do I claim?

You claim on form DS700 (DS700(SP) if you get a state pension). These forms are available from the local Jobcentre Plus office (telephone 0844 800 8014) or by ringing the free Benefit Enquiry Line (0800 882200).

You can also claim carers allowance online in Great Britain at www.direct.gov.uk/carers-ca.

If you are over retirement age

CA is itself an 'overlapping benefit'. This means that, for example, if your state retirement pension is less than CA (£53.10 a week) you will be entitled to a top up of CA to that amount.

If your pension is more than £53.10 you won't actually get CA but you will still have underlying entitlement to it.

Whichever applies you may still be able to get extra pension credit because you are entitled to CA.

What if I am working?

If you get CA you are allowed to work but must earn no more than £95 a week after tax, NI contributions and half of any pension contributions have been taken into account.

If you pay someone to look after the person you care for or any of your children who are under age 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.

CA and means-tested benefits



If you are "entitled" to receive CA you can also get the carer premium (or carer's additions if you are on pension credit) when claiming income support, income related employment and support allowance, housing benefit or council tax benefit.

You are still classed as entitled to receive CA even if you receive another "overlapping" benefit, such as incapacity benefit or contributory employment and support allowance, which prevents you actually being paid CA. This is known as having an "underlying entitlement" to CA. If you have underlying entitlement to CA you can still get the carer premium or addition.

If you are paid CA it may stop the person you care for from getting severe disability premium as part of their income support, income related employment and support allowance, housing benefit or council tax benefit. However if you have underlying entitlement to CA you can get the carer premium/addition and the person you care for can keep their severe disability premium.

Where can I get more help and information?

DIAL Great Yarmouth

12a George Street

Great Yarmouth

Norfolk

NR30 1HR

Telephone 01493 856900

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm