

Carers Allowance

Factsheet 506 – 18 April 2011 (3 Pages)

What is Carers Allowance?

Carers Allowance is a benefit for people over the age of 16 who regularly spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a severely disabled person.

What do you mean by ‘severely disabled’?

To qualify for Carers Allowance the ‘cared-for’ person must receive one of the following:

- Disability Living Allowance care component paid at the middle or higher rate.**
- Attendance Allowance paid at either rate**
- Constant Attendance Allowance (of £52.70 or more) paid with a War Pension, Industrial disablement Pension, workmen’s compensation or an equivalent benefit.**

How much is the allowance?

The basic rate from April 2011 is £55.55 per week for the carer, and in some cases additions are made for adult dependants

I work part time but still care for my mother, can I still claim?

If your take-home pay is less than £100.00 per week you can still apply for Carers Allowance. The earnings limit is after deduction of tax, NI, half of occupational pension and other expenses paid because they are a necessary part of the job'

Can you claim Carers Allowance if the person you care for is not related to you?

Yes, you do not have to be related to, or live with, the disabled person

Can I claim Carers Allowance as well as my retirement pension?

No, you cannot be paid Carers Allowance while you are receiving the same amount *or* more from the following benefits:

- **Incapacity Benefit**
- **Unemployment Supplement**
- **Contribution-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Widows and Bereavement Benefits**
- **State Training Allowance**
- **Retirement Pension**

This is known as the 'overlapping benefits' rule

So, what is the point in applying if, like me, you are retired and looking after your husband?

Whilst your household income might not be greater after claiming Carers Allowance, you might be entitled and be awarded what is called

an underlying entitlement to the Allowance. This means that a Carers Premium is included in your Income Support claim, Job Seekers Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or NHS Benefits, and could mean extra allowances. Or, it could mean that you are now entitled to one of these benefits

There are also other benefits for Carers, who are under pension age, such as:

- National Insurance Contribution Credits**
- £10.00 Christmas Bonus**
- Help towards satisfying the contribution conditions for Incapacity Benefit and Job Seekers Allowance.**

If you have any further questions or would like to request an application form please contact Care Direct 0845 155 1007.

All information received will be treated as confidential.

If you have any further questions please contact Care Direct 0845 1551 007

Further factsheets can be found online at www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets

If you would like it in a different format such as Braille or audio, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email customer@devon.gov.uk.

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