



CARERS ALLOWANCE

Carer's Allowance (CA) is the main benefit for carers. If you are looking after someone for 35 hours a week or more, you may be eligible.

CA is paid at £62.10 a week. It is taxable, but carers will only have to pay tax if they have other sources of taxable income such as an occupational pension or earnings. CA is not means tested – in other words not based on your income or savings – but any earnings you have may affect your entitlement. It is not based on your National Insurance record.

You may be eligible to receive CA if you meet all the following conditions:

- You look after someone who gets a qualifying disability benefit (DLA, PIP, AA)
- You look after that person for at least 35 hours a week
- You are aged 16 or over
- You are not in full-time education
- You earn £110, or less a week after deductions
- You satisfy UK presence & residence conditions

Carer's Allowance and other benefits/income

You cannot usually be paid CA if you receive one or more of the following benefits:

- Contribution based ESA
- Incapacity Benefit
- Maternity Allowance
- Bereavement or widow's benefits
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Contribution based JSA
- State Retirement Pension (see below)

However, if any of these are paid at less than the amount of CA you could be paid a small amount of CA on top of the other benefits you get.

Although in most cases you cannot be paid CA if you get one of the benefits above you may have an underlying entitlement which will mean that a carer's premium or carers addition can be included in calculations for other means tested benefits. If the person you care for is receiving a means tested benefit, your claim for CA could affect how much they get. You should therefore always think carefully and seek advice about how a claim for CA may affect the benefits of the person you care for.

How to claim

The Department for Work & Pensions encourage online claims and say they are the quickest way of applying for CA. Visit www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim. Alternatively request a claim pack DS700 (or DS700(SP) if you are getting a State Retirement Pension) by calling the CA unit on 0345 608 4321.