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Carer's Allowance

What Is Carer's Allowance?

Carer's Allowance is a benefit for anyone aged 16 or over who is providing regular care for someone with a disability.

Who Qualifies?

To apply for Carer's Allowance you and the person you are caring for must meet the following criteria:

1. **Be aged 16 or over and not in full-time education.**
   You can make a claim for Carer's Allowance up to 3 months before your 16th birthday but the benefit will only be paid from the day you turn 16. You will be classed as in full-time education if your course is 21 hours or more per week.

2. **The person you are caring for must receive a qualifying benefit.**
   The person you are caring for must receive one of the following:
   - Attendance Allowance
   - Either rate of the Daily Living component of Personal Independence Payment
   - The middle or higher rate of the Care component of Disability Living Allowance
   - Armed Forces Independence Payment

3. **Provide a minimum of 35 hours of care.**
   This means 35 hours at least each week. You cannot average the hours over a number of weeks. The type of care you provide can be physical care, support or supervision, help with cooking and other household tasks, shopping, or taking the person you are caring for

out. If you are providing care for multiple individuals, carers can only receive payment for one person. The time you spend caring for each person cannot be added together for payment.

4. **Earn less than £196 a week from employment or self-employment (after deductions).**
   This means you can claim Carer's Allowance if you earn less than £196 a week after deductions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Is Carer's Allowance a contributory benefit?	No, it is not a contributory-based benefit so it does not matter how much National Insurance you have paid.
Is Carer's Allowance means tested?	No, Carer's Allowance is not means tested. This means it is not based on your or your partner's income, but there is a cap on how much you can earn (up to £196 per week).
Is Carer's Allowance taxable?	Yes. However, you will only pay tax if you have other sources of taxable income such as occupational or personal pensions, or part-time earnings, and if this combined income takes you over the threshold for paying tax.

Does Carer's Allowance count as income?	If you are paid Carer's Allowance, it will count as income when your means-tested benefits are calculated. However, your means-tested benefits will include a carer premium, carer addition or carer element.
If I claim Carer's Allowance will the benefit cap affect me?	No. If you qualify for Carer's Allowance your household will be exempt from the benefit cap. This means your weekly benefits will not be limited.

Do Other Benefits Affect Carer's Allowance?

Yes. There is something known as the 'overlapping benefits' rule. If you receive less than the basic rate of Carer's Allowance from other benefits, that benefit is paid and topped up with Carer's Allowance to the amount you would get from Carer's Allowance alone.

The overlapping benefit rule means you cannot receive Carer's Allowance while you are receiving the same or more from:

- State Pension
- Maternity Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit or contributory Employment and Support Allowance
- Contributory-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Widow's Benefits and Widowed Parents' Allowance
- A government training allowance

But, you may have an underlying entitlement to a carer premium.

How to Apply

- Apply online at: www.carersallowance.service.gov.uk/ui-citizen-claim/disclaimer
- Or call 0800 731 0297.

How We Can Help

If you live in the Barnsley borough and would like some advice on Carer's Allowance, you can:

- Email us at first.contact@dialbarnsley.org.uk
- Or call our Advice Line on 01226 240273