



Attendance Allowance

What is Attendance Allowance?

Attendance Allowance (or AA) is a benefit for people over State Pension age who need help with personal care or supervision because of a health condition or disability.

Who Qualifies?

To apply for Attendance Allowance, you must have reached State Pension age and meet the following criteria:

- You need help caring for yourself or someone to supervise you because of your disability or health condition
- You satisfy one of the disability tests for 6 months (there are special rules if someone is terminally ill)
- You are not subject to immigration control and are habitually resident

How Is It Assessed?

Attendance Allowance is assessed based on your day time needs and night time needs and is awarded at lower rate or higher rate.

Higher



The higher rate of Attendance Allowance is awarded if you fulfil both the day and night conditions.

Lower



The lower rate of Attendance Allowance is awarded if you fulfil either the day or night conditions.



Entitlement is based on the help you need or may reasonably need, not the actual help you receive. It does not matter whether you live alone, with other people or have a carer.



Day Time

You need either frequent attention throughout the day in relation to your bodily functions, or continual supervision to avoid harm to yourself or others. Continual doesn't mean non-stop, you can have breaks of an hour.



Night Time

You may need another person to be awake to 'watch over' you for prolonged periods (20 minutes or more) or at frequent intervals (usually at least 3 times a night), to avoid the risk of danger e.g. falls or wandering.



Day Time Disability Conditions

You meet the day time conditions if you need physical or verbal help with the following 'bodily functions':

- Eating
- Dressing
- Walking
- Reading
- Going to the toilet
- Washing and bathing
- Taking medication
- Communicating
- Getting in and out of bed



To meet the day time supervision condition, you must need someone around you continually.



Night Time Disability Conditions

You meet the night time conditions if you require attention for prolonged spells (one spell for at least 20 minutes) or repeatedly (two or more shorter spells). This could include:

- Going to the toilet
- Getting in and out of bed, or moving in bed



Or, you may require someone to watch over you to avoid the risk of harm to yourself or others.

How We Can Help

If you live in the Barnsley borough and would like some advice on Attendance Allowance, you can email us or call our advice line:



first.contact@dialbarnsley.org.uk



01226 240273

How to Apply



Apply online:

www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance/how-to-claim



Telephone: 0800 731 0122



Textphone: 0800 731 0317



**Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone):
18001 then 0800 731 0122**

FAQs



Is Attendance Allowance means-tested?

No, Attendance Allowance is not means-tested. What you earn or how much you have in savings will not affect what you get.

How much will I receive?

Attendance Allowance is awarded at lower rate or higher rate depending on your needs.

- Lower rate is £73.90 per week
- Higher rate is £110.40 per week

Where and how will the money be paid?

It is usually paid every 4 weeks, into your bank account. In some circumstances you can get paid weekly.