

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

WHAT IS IT?

It is a tax-free benefit for people who need help with personal care (e.g. bathing, getting dressed, going to the toilet), or someone to keep an eye on them. It is paid whether help is actually received or not - what is important is whether help is needed.

TO QUALIFY YOU MUST....

- ◆ be aged 65 or over (people under 65 years should claim Disability Living Allowance instead).
- ◆ have needed the help for at least 6 months (see Pb18 for more detail)
- ◆ normally live in Great Britain.

HOW MUCH?

Attendance Allowance is paid at 2 rates:

- ◆ Higher Rate (Day **and** Night) £70.35
- ◆ Lower Rate (Day **or** Night) £47.10
- ◆ There is no Mobility Component.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ It does not depend on National Insurance contributions.
- ◆ It is not normally affected by income and savings.
- ◆ It is not usually affected by other benefits, and in fact.....
- ◆ It may lead to **more money** on Pension Credit / Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit.
- ◆ If you go into Residential or Nursing Care or hospital for more than 28 days Attendance Allowance usually stops. **Check** with the Social Security Office. See our leaflet: "Users of Respite Care" (Pb15)

TIPS ON FILLING THE FORMS

- ◆ Don't be put off - get some help/advice (takes at least 2 hours to complete).
- ◆ Take your time & use the space to give as much detail as possible.
- ◆ If the condition varies, explain what it is like over a longer period.
- ◆ Keep a **diary** of your daily life for 2 weeks and time how long it takes you to, for example dress, go to the toilet etc.
- ◆ Do not minimise the condition - if it is painful / wears you out, say so!
- ◆ Do not be afraid to repeat yourself.
- ◆ If someone is already helping you, put how you'd cope without that care.
- ◆ Beware of the words 'I can manage' – this might suggest that you have no difficulty - it's better to describe what difficulty you have with each activity.

HOW TO CLAIM

- ◆ Phone 0800 882200 (text phone 0800 243355) for claim form DS702.
- ◆ The forms are also available on the Social Security Office website.

FURTHER HELP

- ◆ DWP Social Security Enquiry Line for advice - 0800 882200
- ◆ For help in completing the form contact your local Advice Centre. The DWP offer telephone assistance with the form – 0800 882200.
- ◆ WWRAS's 'Self-Help Pack' has guidance on how to fill in the form.
- ◆ If unhappy with the decision (e.g. you believe that they have given you the wrong rate, or none at all) you need to appeal within 1 month of the date on the decision letter – get advice

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