

CARERS ALLOWANCE (CA)

WHAT IS IT?

It is a non-means-tested benefit paid to people caring for someone else.

TO QUALIFY

You must be:

- ◆ Aged 16 or over, **and**
- ◆ Caring for a person receiving the middle or higher rate Care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance, **and**
- ◆ Caring for that person for at least 35 hours per week, **and**
- ◆ Not working, or earning less than £95.00 per week after certain deductions [increased annually], **and**
- ◆ Not in full-time education (over 21 hours of supervised study).

HOW MUCH?

- ◆ See Benefit Rates for current amounts.
- ◆ An extra amount is available for dependants.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Carers Allowance cannot be paid at the same time as certain other benefits – but see below
- ◆ Even though Carers Allowance cannot be paid in addition to, say, Retirement Pension, claiming it could increase your entitlement to other benefits e.g. Income Support / JSA(ib) / ESA(ir) / Pension Credit / Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

- ◆ Be careful though. If the person you care for gets the Severe Disability Premium as part of their Income Support / JSA / ESA or Pension Credit entitlement, you claiming Carers Allowance may reduce their benefit, so **Check First**.
- ◆ Partner's earnings do not affect the basic Carers Allowance, and do not count in the £95.00 per week earnings limit. However, if your partner has earnings this may reduce any increase for dependants.
If your partner is getting a benefit (not Attendance Allowance or DLA) in their own right you may not qualify for an increase for them.
- ◆ If you cannot get Carers Allowance but care for someone, *Home Responsibilities Protection* is a scheme to protect your basic Retirement Pension.
- ◆ You may also be entitled to a State Second Pension.

HOW TO CLAIM

- ◆ CA claim pack DS 700 [DS700 (SP) for those over pension age] available from your local Social Security Office or Advice Centre.
- ◆ Carers aged under 60 have to apply via the local Jobcentre Plus, using the number: 0845 602 0265.

FURTHER HELP

- ◆ Leaflet DHC1JP - 'A guide for disabled people, those with health problems, and carers' - from the Social Security Office.
- ◆ Social Security Enquiry Line 0800 882200.
- ◆ Contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or local Advice Centre.
- ◆ Visit our website – www.wwras.org.uk –to view/download our leaflets, eg see Pb46 "Claiming Carers Allowance on a Retirement Pension".

The information in this factsheet is correct as of October 2009

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*Produced by Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service
Funded by: Warwickshire County Council
Charity Reg No: 1113524
Company No. 5730678*

