

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 £100.00 per week after certain deductions, **and**
- ◆ Not in full-time education (over 21 hours of supervised study, unless the college calls it full-time).

HOW MUCH?

- ◆ See Benefit Rates for current amounts.
- ◆ An extra amount was available for dependants on claims made before April 2010.

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 £100.00 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.

NOTE: Adult Dependant increases are abolished for new claims from April 2010.

- ◆ 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 or from the Carers Allowance Unit.

FURTHER HELP

- ◆ 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, e.g. see Pb46 “Claiming Carers Allowance on a Retirement Pension”.

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2011

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