

# COUNCIL TAX - Disability Reduction



## WHAT IS IT?

This is a way of reducing your Council Tax bill if someone who is disabled lives in the property – and it is not means-tested.

## TO QUALIFY

- ◆ The disabled adult or child must have a 'substantial and permanent' disability

AND

- ◆ The property must have one of the following
  - a room which is predominantly used by the disabled person e.g., for therapy, storing equipment or a downstairs room used as a bedroom, OR
  - an extra bathroom or kitchen, OR
  - sufficient floor space for wheelchair use.

The feature should be of major importance to the disabled person's well-being.

## HOW MUCH?

Your Council Tax bill is reduced to the LOWER valuation band. For instance, if your home is in band D you will get the lower bill that people in band C receive.

If your home is in band A, your Council Tax reduction will be one-sixth of your bill.

## **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- ◆ It is not means-tested.
- ◆ If you are refused you can appeal in writing to the Council Tax office saying why you think their decision was wrong.
- ◆ If you are still refused you can appeal to the Valuation Tribunal.
- ◆ If your circumstances change after getting the Disability Reduction you must tell the Local Authority (e.g. disabled person moves out).
- ◆ You must reapply each year.

## **FOR EXAMPLE**

*Edith can no longer get upstairs and does not have a stairlift. The bed has been moved into what was the dining room and this is now Edith's bedroom.*

*This room is now needed by Edith because of her disability. Her Council Tax bill drops from Band B to Band A.*

## **HOW TO CLAIM**

Write to the Local Authority Council Tax Section asking for the Disability Reduction. They will require information about the disabled person confirming they need a room or extra floorspace because of their disability. You will need to make a repeat application each year.

If you were entitled ask for the Disability Reduction to be backdated. It can be backdated as far as April 1993.

## **FURTHER HELP**

- ◆ Contact your local Advice Centre.

**The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2009**

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