

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS

Carer's Discount

If you look after someone who gets the higher rate either of Attendance Allowance or of the DLA Care Component you may be entitled to a substantial reduction in your Council Tax.

It is called the CARER'S DISCOUNT.

Anyone can claim this discount **whatever their income or savings.**

It can also be backdated to April 1993.

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?

You must fulfil all of the following:

- * You look after someone who gets the higher rate DLA Care Component (or higher rate Attendance Allowance)

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- * You look after that person for at least 35 hours per week

A N D

- * That person is not your spouse or partner

A N D

- * That person is not your child aged under 18

A N D

- * That person lives with you

This means you can apply for a discount whatever your age and even for your own adult child.

What is a "DISCOUNT"?

The Council Tax is based on two people living in a household. Some people can be considered "invisible" when the Council looks at people who live with you.

If there are less than two 'visible' people the Council Tax can be reduced by a quarter or even by half.

If there is more than one person who cares for at least 35 hours per week (there are 168 hours in a week!) more than one Carer's Discount can be awarded.

EXAMPLE

John and Jean look after their physically disabled son, Michael aged 19. Michael gets the higher rate Care Component, Jean looks after Michael during the day. John works full-time, but takes over from Jean at night and at the weekend.

Both John and Jean are entitled to the Carer's Discount. This leaves Michael as 'visible' and reduces their Council Tax bill by a quarter.

More than one Discount?

The members of your household may be entitled to more than one sort of discount. There is a list of people whose circumstances may lead to them being discounted or 'invisible'. As well as informal Carers, they include:

- * Care Workers
- * severely mentally impaired people
- * full-time student
- * anyone under 18
- * anyone aged 18 for whom you get child benefit
- * anyone who normally lives elsewhere

EXAMPLE

Veena is a widow with two children Prakash (17) and Anita (21) who has learning disabilities and gets the highest rate Care Component.

Veena gets the Carer's Discount, Anita is considered severely mentally impaired and Prakash is under 18. There are no 'visible' people in the household and so the Council Tax bill is halved.

If you want to claim, contact your local Borough or District Council and ask for the Council Tax Section.

If you should have been getting a discount before, it could be backdated to April 1993 so remember to ask for this.

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2009

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