

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS- **Severe Mental Impairment**

WHAT IS IT?

People who are classed as 'severely mentally impaired' (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, dementia, learning disability) can be disregarded for Council Tax.

TO QUALIFY

The person must be entitled to one of the following benefits:-

- ◆ Incapacity Benefit, or
- ◆ Employment & Support Allowance, or
- ◆ Attendance Allowance/Constant Attendance Allowance, or
- ◆ Disability Living Allowance (middle/higher care component), or
- ◆ Severe Disablement Allowance, or
- ◆ Income Support or JSA which includes a disability premium, or
- ◆ Working Tax Credit which includes a disability element, or
- ◆ Is over State Pension age and would have been entitled to one of the above if under State Pension age.

and must get a certificate of confirmation of severe mental impairment from a registered medical practitioner (GP).

HOW MUCH?

The Council Tax is based on 2 people living in a household. Some people can be considered 'invisible' and discounted.

Example

Joan looks after her partner Ron who has dementia. Ron can be classed as severely mentally impaired and their Council Tax bill can be reduced by a $\frac{1}{4}$.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Discounts are NOT means tested and can be paid as well as other discounts, Disability Reductions and Council Tax Benefit.
See Factsheets 47, 48 & 49 for information on these other ways to reduce your Council Tax bill.
- ◆ Discounts can be backdated up to 1993.
- ◆ Do not be put off if the Local Authority claim not to be aware of this discount or the backdating - remember **it's your right!**

HOW TO CLAIM

Contact the Council Tax section of your local District or Borough Council for the relevant form.

FURTHER HELP

Contact a local Advice Centre.

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2009

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Produced by Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service

Funded by: Warwickshire County Council

Charity Reg No: 1113524

Company No. 5730678

