

# DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)

## WHAT IS IT?

This tax-free Benefit provides extra money for people who need help with personal care (e.g., bathing, getting dressed, or going to the toilet), or someone to keep an eye on them, and/or getting around. It is paid if they *get* any help or not - what is important is whether help is needed.

## TO QUALIFY

- ◆ First claim under 65 years of age.
- ◆ The help must have been needed for 3 months and be expected to be needed for the next 6 months (for more detail see Pb19 /Pb19A).
- ◆ Normally live in Great Britain.

## HOW MUCH?

Disability Living Allowance **Care** Component is paid at 3 rates.

- |               |   |        |
|---------------|---|--------|
| ◆ Higher Rate | (Day <b>and</b> Night)                      | £70.35 |
| ◆ Middle Rate | (Day <b>or</b> Night)                       | £47.10 |
| ◆ Lower Rate  | (care only required for about 1 hour a day) | £18.85 |

Disability Living Allowance **Mobility** Component is paid at 2 rates.

- |               |   |        |
|---------------|---|--------|
| ◆ Higher Rate | (unable or virtually unable to walk)        | £49.10 |
| ◆ Lower Rate  | (need supervision or guidance out of doors) | £18.85 |

## POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ It is not usually affected by income and savings.
- ◆ It may lead to **more money** on Income Support, income-based JSA, income-related ESA, Pension Credit, Housing or Council Tax Benefit.

- ◆ If you go into residential care or hospital for more than 28 days (12 weeks for children) you must notify the Social Security Office.
- ◆ DLA Mobility Component can't be claimed until a child is 3 years old.

### **TIPS ON FILLING THE FORMS**

- ◆ Do not be put off - get help or advice. (It takes about 2 hours to fill in properly).
- ◆ Take your time and use the boxes to give as much extra detail as possible.
- ◆ If the condition varies explain what it is like over a longer period.
- ◆ Keep a **diary** of your daily life for 2 weeks and time how long it takes you to, for example dress, use the toilet etc.
- ◆ Don't minimise the condition - if it is painful or wears you out - say so!
- ◆ Do not be afraid to tick the boxes or repeat yourself.
- ◆ If you are already getting care, put how you would cope without it.

### **HOW TO CLAIM**

- ◆ Phone 0800 882200 or text phone 0800 243355
- ◆ Claim using form DS704 or DS706 for children.
- ◆ The forms are also available on the Social Security website.

### **FURTHER HELP**

- ◆ Social Security Enquiry Line for advice - 0800 882200

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2009

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