

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 October 2008

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