

Attendance Allowance

Please read this then pass it to your carer if you have one

This leaflet contains two separate pieces of information. The first part is for you and is about your claim for Attendance Allowance. The second part is for your carer, if you have one, and gives information about Carer's Allowance.

For you - your benefit could be affected if someone claims Carer's Allowance for providing care to you.

If your claim to Attendance Allowance is successful, you may receive an extra amount called the severe disability premium (SDP) (or additional amount for severe disability in Pension Credit) paid as part of

- Income support
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit

If someone is paid Carer's Allowance for providing care to you, you will not be able to receive the SDP. For more information about this you should contact the office dealing with these benefits. **However, your Attendance Allowance will not be affected.**

For your carer

If you are caring for someone who is intending to claim Attendance Allowance, you may wish to make a claim for Carer's Allowance (CA). You should wait until the person you are caring for receives a decision on their claim for Attendance Allowance. If it is awarded you should claim CA. **You should claim within 3 months of the Attendance Allowance decision being made or you could lose benefit. Ask for the claim pack - DS700 (or DS700SP if you are getting State Pension).**

Carer's Allowance and other Social Security benefits

Payment of some other benefits, allowances or pensions affects payment of CA. This means that if you are receiving another benefit you may not be paid CA or any payment of CA may be reduced. However even if you cannot be paid, being entitled to Carer's Allowance means that you may be able to get an extra amount paid with, Income Support, Pension Credit or Housing Benefit.

How to obtain help and advice and claim Carer's Allowance

- You can obtain information from the website at www.dsdni.gov.uk. You can also claim on-line at this address.
- Write to Disability and Carers Service, Castle Court, Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1 HR or phone 028 9090 6186
- Phone the Benefit Enquiry Line (BEL) on 0800 220 674 for people with disabilities, their representatives and their carers.
- People with speech or hearing problems using a textphone can dial 0800 243 787
- Your local Social Security office Jobs & Benefits office or Pension Service office and many local advice centres can provide claim forms and help with completion.

The claim pack and the website contains notes, which explain Carer's Allowance in more detail.

Other conditions of entitlement apply. This is not intended to be a complete statement of law and you should not rely on it as such.