

Disability Living Allowance (Child), Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit

Carer's Allowance

If you are caring for the child you are claiming Disability Living Allowance for, you may want to claim Carer's Allowance. If you decide not to claim and someone else cares for the child for at least 35 hours a week or more, they may be able to claim Carer's Allowance. Do not claim Carer's Allowance until the child is awarded Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate for care, but Carer's Allowance must be claimed within three months of the Disability Living Allowance decision being made, or the person claiming Carer's Allowance could lose benefit.

Carer's Allowance and other benefits

Some benefits, allowances or pensions can affect how much Carer's Allowance we can pay. This means that if you get another benefit, we may not pay Carer's Allowance at all, or pay it at a reduced rate. But you may still be entitled to Carer's Allowance even if we cannot pay it, and being entitled means that you may get an extra amount paid with income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit or Housing Benefit.

How to claim Carer's Allowance or find out more information

- Visit <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>.
- Write to Disability and Carers Service, Castle Court, Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1HR 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 and many local advice centres can provide claim forms and help with completion.

Carer's Credit

If you cannot get Carer's Allowance and look after one or more disabled people for a total of 20 hours or more a week, you may want to apply for Carer's Credit. This is a National Insurance Credit for carers of working age that can protect your future entitlement to the State Pension and Bereavement Benefits. The credit may also help you build up some additional pension, sometimes called State Second Pension. Any additional pension you are entitled to will be paid with your basic State Pension when you claim it.

The earliest you can apply for Carer's Credit is 6/4/2010.

You do not need to apply for Carer's credit if you receive Child Benefit for a child under age 12 or get Carer's Allowance as you will already get National Insurance Credits.

How to apply for Carer's Credit or find out more information

- Visit <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>
- Write to Disability and Carers Service, Castle Court, Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1HR 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**.

We can send you this leaflet in other formats, such as large print.

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