

Disability

Law

Service

Fighting injustice
for disabled people

Benefits for Carers

Carers Week 2020

Summary

- Carer's Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Council Tax Reduction
- Question and Answer Session

Carer's Allowance

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Carer's Allowance

You may be able to get Carer's Allowance if you care for someone who receives:

- Personal Independence Payment daily living component
- Disability Living Allowance middle or highest care component
- Attendance Allowance.

You must be over 16 and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone. Your income must be less than £128 a week after tax, national insurance and expenses. You cannot be a student.

Carers Allowance during coronavirus outbreak

A break in caring can be ignored if it is caused by either the disabled person or their carer having coronavirus symptoms or having to isolate because of coronavirus.

You can claim Carer's Allowance if you provide care remotely during the coronavirus outbreak. This includes giving emotional support over the phone or online. You will still need to be providing care for at least 35 hours a week.

Universal Credit

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Universal Credit (UC)

If you are on a low income, you may be able to claim Universal Credit. You cannot claim UC if your savings are over £16,000.

Your UC may include a Carer's Premium of £162.92 a month. If your UC includes a Carer's Premium, you will not be expected to look for work.

You can apply online here: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

If you need help with the form, you can contact the Citizens Advice service Help to Claim on 0800 144 8 444.

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Council Tax Reduction

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Council Tax Reduction

If you are on a low income, you may be entitled to Council Tax Reduction to reduce your council tax bill.

Each local council has a different scheme. You will not normally be able to claim it if your savings are over £16,000.

You can apply here: www.gov.uk/apply-council-tax-reduction

Further Information

CPAG has useful resources on benefits during coronavirus:
www.askcpag.org.uk

To check which benefits you may be entitled to before you apply, you can use a benefits calculator:
www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

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Question and Answer Session

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For further advice

Disability Law Service can advice disabled people and their carers on:

- Community Care
- Housing
- Employment
- Welfare Benefits

www.dls.org.uk | advice@dls.org.uk | 0207 791 9800

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