New Forest Disability Information Service

Information
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www.NewForestDIS.org.uk

Information Sheet 5

Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance (CA) is a benefit for people who regularly care for someone. You do not have to be related to or live with the person.

The qualifying criteria are:

1. You must be providing at least 35 hours of care per week for someone (you may only claim once for Carer's Allowance for looking after one person, and you cannot add together the hours if you care for two or more people)
2. The person you look after must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit: Attendance Allowance (AA), or Constant Attendance Allowance, or Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Care Component at middle or high rate or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Daily Living Component at either standard or enhanced rate.

The benefit is NOT payable if you have an earned income of £204 after deductions per week.

Carer's allowance and state pension

If you begin receiving a state pension that is more than carer's allowance (£86.45 weekly), payment of carer's allowance will stop due to the overlapping benefits rule.

If your state pension is less than carer's allowance, state pension is paid and topped up with carer's allowance to the basic weekly rate of carer's allowance.

Being entitled to Carer's Allowance (even if you are not paid it) means you may be able to get an extra amount paid with certain benefits, e.g., Housing Benefit and Pension Credit (and it may help you to qualify for Pension Credit, even if you do not qualify at the moment), as well as credits towards your National Insurance record

Who can apply for Carer's Allowance?

Answer these brief questions to see if you might qualify:	
• Do you regularly spend 35 hours per week caring for one person?	Yes/No
• Does that person receive a Qualifying Benefit?	Yes/No
• Are you over 16?	Yes/No
• You do not attend education for 21 hours or more per week?	Yes/No
• Are you normally resident in Great Britain?	Yes/No
• You are not subject to Immigration Controls?	Yes/No

IF you answered YES to these questions, you may qualify for Carer's Allowance.

To apply for Carer's Allowance

If you would like an experienced Advisor at the New Forest Disability Information Service to assist and advise you in filling in the forms:

- Telephone or visit the New Forest Disability Information Service. Call 01425 628750 and request an appointment to complete a CA application. (24-hour answerphone in operation for out-of-hours or busy times).
- Please state your name and telephone number if leaving a message.
- An appointment date and time will be made.
- Please note: you should allow approx 1 hour for filling in the forms – if you have all the information with you, longer may be needed for complex cases.
- The Advisor will have the application pack ready for you.

To help us to help you, please ensure you have with you:

- Your National Insurance number
- Your employment details if you work, or P45 details if you recently stopped work
- Details of any pension contributions you have made in the last 12 months
- Details of your income for the last 12 months
- Your bank account details (sort code and account number)
- Full name of the person you care for, their National Insurance Number, their date of birth
- Details of any breaks you have had in caring for the person over the last 9 months (e.g., when they were in hospital or you were on holiday)
- Dates you have been outside the UK (including for holidays) in the last 3 years

If you do not wish to have assistance from New Forest Disability Information Service:

- You can apply via the online portal at www.gov.uk/carers-allowance. If you prefer, you can print out a paper form to complete and post.

Important: The benefits of the person you care for may be affected if you claim Carer's Allowance for providing their care (such as severe disability premium paid on certain benefits such as Pension Credit). It is important that you discuss with them your intention to claim Carer's Allowance.

This information sheet is only a brief guide to Carer's Allowance and is designed to help you decide if it could be appropriate for you to make an application.

Useful contact: DWP: telephone: 0800 731 0297, textphone: 0800 731 0317, website: www.gov.uk

New Forest Disability Information Service is a registered charity, and we rely on your kind donations to provide our services. If you would like to make a donation, please visit www.NewForestDIS.org.uk/donate. Thank you.