

Disability and Carers Service

Please note

Page 8 of the Disability Living Allowance leaflet contains information about when a carer should claim Carer's Allowance. The rules have changed since we printed this information.

Updated information about 'Help for carers'

If you get Disability Living Allowance care component at the middle or highest rate, and someone is caring for you for 35 hours a week or more, they may be able to get Carer's Allowance. Your carer should make a claim for Carer's Allowance within three months of the date you get the decision on your Disability Living Allowance, so that they do not lose any benefit. For more information, see the leaflet '**Carer's Allowance**'.

You can get a Carer's Allowance claim form from the following places.

- The Benefit Enquiry Line, by phoning **0800 88 22 00** (see '**How do I find out more?**' in this leaflet).
- The Carer's Allowance Unit, by phoning **01253 856123** (textphone **01772 899489**).

You can claim Carer's Allowance online at www.direct.gov.uk/carers.

Remember, it is important for your carer to claim Carer's Allowance as soon as possible – within three months of the decision on Disability Living Allowance if possible – or they could lose out on benefit.

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions
Disability and Carers Service





Disability Living Allowance

What is Disability Living Allowance?

Disability Living Allowance is tax-free cash help towards extra costs you may face if you are disabled. You can get it if:

- you have a physical or mental disability, or both (including developmental disorders or learning difficulties);
- your disability is severe enough for you to need help with personal care or have walking difficulties, or both; and
- you are under 65 years of age when you make your claim.

You may get either a care component or a mobility component of Disability Living Allowance – or both of these.

This leaflet is about Disability Living Allowance for adults aged between 16 and 64. If you want to know about Disability Living Allowance for people aged under 16, pick up the leaflet 'Disability Living Allowance for children'. If you are aged 65 or over, pick up our leaflet 'Attendance Allowance'.

You can get Disability Living Allowance whether you are working or not. You do not have to have paid any National Insurance contributions. It is not affected by any savings or income you may have. However, if you get Constant Attendance Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you will normally get that instead of Disability Living Allowance.

You will not usually need a medical examination, but you can send reports from your health visitor or a doctor with your claim.

Can I get it?

Care component of Disability Living Allowance

To get the care component of Disability Living Allowance you must:

- have needed help with personal care because of your disability for at least 3 months; and
- be likely to go on needing this help for at least another 6 months.

You can get Disability Living Allowance even if you are not currently getting the help you need.

'Help with personal care' means that you need help with things such as:

- washing (and getting in or out of the bath or shower);
- dressing;
- eating;
- getting to and using the toilet (or a pad, commode, bedpan or bottle); or
- communicating your needs.

It may also mean that you need someone to supervise you to make sure you avoid putting yourself or others in substantial danger. For example, you may need help to:

- keep an eye on your medical condition or diet (for example, things like help with therapy or medication);
- communicate (because you are deaf or blind, or some other condition means you have difficulty communicating); or
- protect you from danger that you may not know is there.

You may need help with personal care because you:

- have difficulty moving your arms or legs smoothly, or have no control over them;
- get breathless or feel pain; or
- have problems with your behaviour, have learning difficulties or you get confused;

or something like this.

Rates of care component

There are 3 rates of Disability Living Allowance care component.

Lowest rate

You may be able to get this if:

- you need help with personal care for some of the day; or
- your disabilities mean you cannot prepare a cooked main meal for yourself (if you had the ingredients).

Middle rate

You may be able to get this if you need:

- help with personal care or supervision frequently throughout the day only;
- help with personal care or supervision during the night only; or
- someone with you when you are on dialysis.

Highest rate

You may be able to get this if you need help with personal care or supervision throughout the day and also during the night.

Special rules

We have arrangements called special rules to help people who are terminally ill (people who have a progressive disease and are not reasonably expected to live for more than another 6 months). The special rules are to make sure people get their benefit as soon as possible. Such people can qualify immediately for the highest rate of care component. You can make a claim under the special rules for a person who is terminally ill without them knowing or without their permission. You should claim straight away.

Mobility component of Disability Living Allowance

To get the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance you must:

- be unable, or virtually unable, to walk because of your physical disability; or
- need guidance or supervision from another person when walking out of doors in unfamiliar places because of your physical or mental disability.

You must also have had these walking difficulties for at least 3 months, and it must be likely that you will have them for at least another 6 months.

Rates of mobility component

There are 2 rates of Disability Living Allowance mobility component.

Lower rate

You may be able to get this if you can walk, but you need guidance or supervision from another person when you are walking out of doors in unfamiliar places. This is to avoid causing a danger to yourself or to other people.

You may need this help because:

- you have problems controlling your behaviour;
- you are blind or deaf; or
- someone needs to keep a close eye on your condition;

or something like this.

Higher rate

You may be able to get the higher rate if any of the following apply, even when wearing or using any aid or equipment you normally use (for example, a false leg).

- If you cannot walk at all.
- If you can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort.
- The effort of walking could threaten your life or seriously affect your health.
- If you are both 100% blind and 80% deaf and you need someone with you when you are outdoors.
- If you have had both legs amputated at or above the ankle, or you were born without legs or feet.
- If you get the highest rate of care component and you are severely mentally impaired and have severe behavioural problems.

What else should I know?

Help for carers

If you get Disability Living Allowance care component at the middle or highest rate, and someone is caring for you for 35 hours a week or more, they may be able to get Carer's Allowance. Your carer should make a claim for Carer's Allowance at the same time you claim Disability Living Allowance so that they do not lose any benefit. For more information, see the leaflet 'Carer's Allowance'.

You can get a Carer's Allowance claim form from the following places.

- From the Benefit Enquiry Line, by phoning **0800 88 22 00** (see 'How do I find out more?' in this leaflet).
- From the Carer's Allowance Unit, by phoning **01253 856123** (textphone **01772 899489**).

You can claim Carer's Allowance on-line at **www.dwp.gov.uk**. You should look at the section for 'disabled people and carers'. Or, go to **www.direct.gov.uk/carers**.

Other help

You may be able get other help because you get Disability Living Allowance. You may get an extra amount for disability in Income Support, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Working Tax Credit, and for severe disability in these or Pension Credit if you do not have a carer who gets Carer's Allowance. The leaflet '**A guide for disabled people, those with health conditions, and carers**' gives useful information. You can get a copy of this leaflet at the website **www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk**.

What do I do next?

Making a claim for Disability Living Allowance

If you think that you may be able to get Disability Living Allowance, please fill in the tear-off slip and post it to us. It does not need a stamp. We will then send you a claim form and notes to help you fill it in.

Send your tear-off slip to us as quickly as possible.

You can also get a claim form:

- by phoning the Benefit Enquiry Line (see '**How do I find out more?**' in this leaflet)
- from advice centres like Citizens Advice Bureaus, or
- from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website at **www.dwp.gov.uk**. You should look at the section for 'disabled people and carers'.

You can claim Disability Living Allowance on-line. The on-line service is available at **www.dwp.gov.uk**. You should look at the section for 'disabled people and carers'. Or, go to **www.direct.gov.uk/disability**.

How do I find out more?

On the phone

The Benefit Enquiry Line can help you if you need:

- more information about Disability Living Allowance or other benefits you may be able to claim;
- help filling in the claim form;
- a claim form; or
- a claim form in Braille or large print.

Phone them on **0800 88 22 00**. There is also a textphone service on **0800 24 33 55** for people with speech or hearing difficulties. If you do not have your own textphone system, they are available in some libraries and some Citizens Advice Bureaus. These textphone services do not receive text messages from a mobile phone. We also welcome calls from RNID Typetalk.

We can also provide an interpreter, or you may want to arrange for a friend or family member to interpret for you.

On the internet



Straight through to public services

Visit Directgov for the widest range of online information from the Government – there's a section for disabled people covering financial support, disability rights, employment, independent living and much more. There is also a section for carers.

www.direct.gov.uk/disability

www.direct.gov.uk/carers

Claim Form Request

Please send me a claim form for Disability Living Allowance for someone aged 16 or over.

Please use ink and write in BLOCK LETTERS.

Tick a box below to choose a claim form in standard print, large print or Braille.

Standard print

Large print

Braille

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Business Reply Service
Licence No OL5225

1



Department for Work and Pensions
PO Box 50
Heywood
Lancashire
OL10 2GF

This leaflet is available in Welsh, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape and on audio CD. For more information, contact the Benefit Enquiry Line. Phone them on **0800 88 22 00**. There is also a textphone service on **0800 24 33 55** for people with speech and hearing difficulties. You can ring these numbers between 8.30am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday and between 9.00am and 1.00pm on Saturday.

This leaflet is only a general guide and is not a full statement of the law. We have made every effort to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct at the date shown below.

