

The following is a brief and general guide only. The Social Security system is complex and it is not possible to give a comprehensive analysis here. You need to check each individual's circumstances and each case on its merits. You are advised to call our advice line on 020 7387 1466 Monday to Friday (except Wednesday) 10am to 4pm or a C.A.B. for specific advice.

Carers Allowance

A benefit for people who are caring for a disabled person who is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance Care component at middle or high rates or Attendance Allowance at any rate. You must be caring for 35 hours or more per week.

In addition you should be:

- Aged 16+
- Not earning more than £ 77 per week.
- Not in full time education (21 + hours per week)

If a couple are both in receipt of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance (middle or high rates) then both may be eligible for Carers Allowance on the basis of caring for each other. Only one person can claim Carers Allowance for looking after a disabled person. Only one claim per person, you cannot claim two lots of Carers Allowance even if you care for two disabled people.

If you receive a means tested benefit (i.e. Pension Credit) then any Carers Allowance (CA) would be counted as income so your Pension Credit would be reduced. However having underlying entitlement to CA should entitle you to the Carers Premium or CP(£ 25.55 per week) as part of your Pension credit (see below).

In some circumstances the disabled person may lose their Severe Disability Premium (SDP) – see below. In these circumstances, you should seek advice before action.