

# DISC

DISABILITY IN CAMDEN

*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. Please call our advice line on 020 7387 1466 Monday to Friday (except Wednesday) 10am to 4pm or a C.A.B. for specific advice.*

## Disability Living Allowance

**Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a benefit for adults and children living with a disability. It is a non-contributory and non-means tested benefit for those who need help with personal care and/or mobility.**

- *Non-contributory:* You do not have to have paid any national insurance contributions to qualify.
- *Non-means tested:* Neither your income nor your capital will be looked at. This means that if you have £ thousands in the bank and receive £ thousands each week, you can still apply.
- *Not affected by work:* Work does not affect entitlement. You may be working full or part time or not at all.
- *Different rates according to severity of condition* (see below).

To qualify you must be:

- Aged under 65 when you first claim
- Habitually resident in U.K.
- Not subject to immigration controls
- Have mobility and/or care needs (based on how your disability affects your daily living). It does not matter whether or not you actually have someone looking after you.

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Disability Living Allowance has **two components** but is a single benefit and you make one claim. If successful, you may be awarded one or both components, depending on your needs. If you have mobility needs, you may be awarded the **mobility component** paid at two rates (high or low). If you have care needs you may be awarded the **care component** at one of 3 rates, (low, middle or high). The rate you are awarded depends on the extent and type of help you need.

Lets briefly look at what is meant by mobility and/or care needs.

### Mobility Component

- **Low rate** (£ 15.55 per week): For people who are able to walk but need guidance or supervision when walking outdoors in unfamiliar places. For example: people with learning disabilities who may get confused easily; visually impaired people who cannot see signs, obstacles, etc; hearing impaired people who cannot ask for or understand directions; people with a mental health diagnosis who experience panic attacks outdoors.

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- **High rate** (£ 41.05 per week): For people who are unable to walk or virtually unable to walk, or the exertion required to walk would cause a serious deterioration or danger to your health. Virtually unable to walk is decided by considering the speed, manner, time taken and distance of walking before the onset of severe discomfort.

### Care Component

- **Lower rate** (£ 15.55 per week): For people who are unable to plan or prepare a cooked main meal for themselves or need help with personal care tasks such as washing and dressing for about an hour a day.
- **Middle rate** (£ 39.35 per week): For people who need frequent help or continual supervision throughout the day OR prolonged or repeated help or watching over at night. Help during the day includes assistance with getting in and out of chairs, getting to and from toilet, or supervision to avoid the danger of falls or condition suddenly getting worse. Care during the night includes help getting out of bed to go to the toilet, changing position, or watching over due to seizures. Prolonged means 20 minutes or more, repeated means twice or more.
- **High rate** (£ 58.80 per week): For people who need frequent help or continual supervision throughout the day AND prolonged or repeated help or watching over at night.

Children

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