



The National Unpaid Carers Union and Forum

What is a carer?

A carer is a person who can be a member of your family, a friend or a loved one who provides assistance in any of the following ways:

- Financial Assistance
- Physical Assistance
- Emotional Care
- Domestic Care
- Health Care
- Communication Care
- Personal Care

The above list is not exhaustive, there are many other aspects to the above that would consider you to be a carer.

If you perform any or all of the above for a minimum of **35 hours per week**, you should call the DWP Carers Allowance Unit to check your eligibility.

Can I be paid to be a carer?

Yes, you can, if you are earning less than £151.00 per week from employment, are over the age of 16 and the person you care for is in receipt of certain benefits. Check with the Carers Allowance Unit at the Department for Work and Pensions to find out what benefits are included.

How Much will I be paid?

The current rate for carers allowance is £81.90. This will rise to £83.40 from April 2025. You can opt to have the payment weekly or monthly direct into your bank account.

What happens if I earn more than £151.00 from employment?

If you earn more than £151.00 per week through a combination of carers allowance and employment you cannot claim carers allowance. If you earn less than £69.10 from employment you can claim carers allowance, if you earn more than that per week you are no longer eligible.

Example: Carers Allowance of £81.90 + £69.10 from employment = £151.00 **Eligible to claim**

Carers Allowance of £81.90 + 16 hours at minimum wage = £264.94 **No longer eligible to claim**

You must notify the Department for Work and Pensions Carers Allowance Unit immediately if you are no longer eligible to claim the Allowance. The onus is on you to report this to the department, and you could be committing fraud by not doing so.

What happens if I care for more than one person?

You can only claim Carers Allowance for one person, and only one carer can claim carers allowance for that person, you cannot have multiple claimants claiming Carers Allowance for the same person.

If you fit the above, then make a claim for Carers Allowance immediately. You could be missing out.

Call the Department for Work and Pensions Carers Allowance unit on 0800 731 0297