

What is 'Supervision'?

To get Attendance Allowance for supervision, you must need watching over most of the time to avoid a real risk of harm. If you could use a personal alarm in an emergency, you probably won't get AA for supervision.

Example

Sawsan has dementia. She forgets to turn off the gas when cooking, leaves doors unlocked and gets lost if she goes out.

Because her memory lapses are unpredictable and could have serious consequences, there is an argument that she should have **continual supervision**.

Even if nobody actually watches over her all the time, she still **reasonably requires** supervision and should claim AA.



Is my Attendance Allowance to pay for a Carer?

It is up to you how you spend your Attendance Allowance.

Some people buy extra support but others use the money to pay for extra heating, special equipment to help them manage or for daily living expenses.

What about other benefits?

If you get AA, someone who looks after you may be able to claim **Carer's Allowance** (CA).

This cannot be someone employed to help you, but could be a friend or family member.

They need to spend at least **35 hours a week** looking after you although time spent doing 'chores' can count towards this.

Only one person can claim for looking after you, even if you need over 35 hours care, or care from more than one person.

You may be **better off** if your carer *doesn't* claim Carer's Allowance. If you **live alone**, **get AA** and **don't have a carer who gets CA**, you might get extra Pension Credit and Housing Benefit, or qualify for these for the first time.

Have a look at our **Benefits for Older People** leaflet and get a **benefit check**.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our

Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

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Attendance Allowance

Pensioners' Benefits No 2



Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent

What is Attendance Allowance?

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for **disabled people over state pension age**.

It is not means-tested, so your **income and savings do not matter**.

It is a **non-contributory benefit**, which means you do not have to have paid National Insurance to get it.

Attendance Allowance is **not counted as income** for means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit and Housing Benefit.

If you get Attendance Allowance, this can sometimes **help you to qualify** for these benefits or get a **higher amount** of them.

You can only claim Attendance Allowance if you are **over retirement age**, which is now 66.

How to Claim

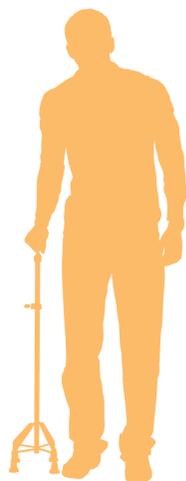
Ring the Attendance Allowance helpline to claim:

Telephone: **0345 605 6055**

Textphone: **0345 604 5312**

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

If you are **under retirement age** and disabled, read our leaflet about **Personal Independence Payment**.



How much is Attendance Allowance?

There are two rates of Attendance Allowance - a lower rate and a higher rate. There is **no mobility component** with Attendance Allowance.

The **lower rate** of **60 per week** can be paid if you need **attention** or **supervision** only during the day or just at night. The **higher rate** of **£89.60 per week** is paid if you need care or supervision **during the day and at night too**.

Do I qualify?

You must be over retirement age when you first claim and need **personal care** in the form of attention or supervision. We will explain what this means a little further on.

You must have had your care needs for the **previous six months** and, in most cases, be expected to need at least that much care for **six more months**. You can claim early, but Attendance Allowance won't be paid until you have needed enough help for six months.

If you are **terminally ill** and, unfortunately, the medical advice is that you are not expected to live longer than **6 more months**, you can claim under **special rules** that mean you do not have to wait any time before making your claim or being paid, and you **automatically get the higher rate**.

You also have to meet **residence** and **presence tests**. If you have not been living in Great Britain throughout the last three years, please contact us for more advice about this.

What is 'Attention'?

Attention for Attendance Allowance must be in connection with your **bodily functions** and needed **more than once or twice**, throughout the day or during the night, not just first and last thing. Help to get out of bed, wash, shower and bathe, use the WC, get dressed or undressed, move about safely indoors and feed yourself all count.

Someone shopping and cleaning for you doesn't count but, if you can only do your own chores with certain types of help from someone else, this might.



Example

Even with glasses, Eric's eyesight is very poor. He likes to do his own shopping but he makes mistakes about what is in tins and packets, and cannot see the prices, so his son Ryan goes with him to read the labels and tell him what things cost.

Ryan isn't shopping for his dad, he is **helping him with the bodily function of seeing** which matters if Eric claims AA.

Eric would need help with other tasks to qualify for Attendance Allowance, as help with shopping would not occur frequently throughout the day, but it is something to be taken into account.