

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 could 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 other **daily living expenses**.

Although it is ignored as income when working out other benefits, Attendance Allowance *is* counted when assessing how much you have to pay for care costs.

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 CA for looking after you, even if you need over 35 hours care, or receive 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 for more information 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



North Staffs Pensioners' Convention



"Us today, you tomorrow"

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 (AA) is **not counted as income** if you claim means-tested benefits like Pension Credit or 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

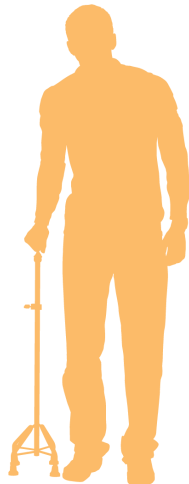
Ring the Attendance Allowance helpline to claim:

Telephone: **0345 605 6055**

Textphone: **0345 604 5312**

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

If you are **under retirement age** and disabled, you will need 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 £61.85 per week** can be paid if you need attention or supervision *only during the day or just at night*. The **higher rate of £92.40 per week** is paid if you need care or supervision *during the day and at night too*.

Do I qualify?

To get AA, you must be **over retirement age** when you first claim and need attention or supervision from another person. We will explain what this means a little further on.

You must have had these care needs for the **previous six months** and, in most cases, be expected to need at least that much care for **six more months**.

The Special Rules

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**.

Residence and Presence

To get AA, you have to meet **residence and presence tests**. If you have not been living in Great Britain for **at least 104 of the last 156 weeks** (two out of the last three years), contact us for more advice.

What is 'Attention'?

To get AA, you must need attention in **connection with your bodily functions**, several times throughout the day (not just first and last thing) or more than once at night. 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, 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 or 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 Eric with the **bodily function of seeing**, so is relevant to his claim for Attendance Allowance.

Eric would have to need attention with other tasks to qualify for Attendance Allowance, as the need for help with his vision when doing his shopping would not be expected to occur *frequently throughout the day*.