

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)

Amounts stated are valid until end of April 2018

WHAT IS DLA?

DLA is a benefit for children aged under 16, who have a serious illness – like cancer, a mental health condition, or a disability. DLA helps with day to day living costs. It's not means tested, which means it's not based on your income or savings. It also won't affect any other benefits you're getting.

QUALIFYING FOR DLA

You can get DLA if your child:

- Needs help with walking or getting around outdoors or in unfamiliar places
- Needs more care or supervision than a child their age who doesn't have a serious illness or disability.

Your child must have needed help with either or both of these for at least three months, and likely to need help for at least another six months.



WHAT IS DLA MADE UP OF?

There are two parts to DLA – a care part and a mobility part. Your child may get one or both, depending on their needs.

PART 1: CARE

This part has three different levels – lower, middle and highest. The level your child gets will be based on the amount of care and supervision they need. You will need to show your child has greater needs than a child of their age in normal physical health or that they need more care and supervision with things like:

- washing
- dressing
- eating
- getting to and using the toilet
- communicating with other people
- keeping an eye on their medical condition or diet
- settling in bed.

The care component of DLA, isn't paid until a child reaches three months old, but you can still apply for it before then. If your child is terminally ill, then they don't need to be three months old to get the care part – see 'What happens if my child is terminally ill?'

If your child is awarded either the middle or higher rate of the care part, you may be able to claim Carer's Allowance or Carer's Credit.

You may also be entitled to extra money if you or anyone in your household receives Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit.

PART 2: MOBILITY

This is paid at two different rates – higher and lower – depending on the level of help your child needs with their mobility.

The minimum age for claiming the mobility part is three, but for the lower rate the minimum age is five. You must show that your child needs much more guidance or supervision with getting around or being outside than other children of their age in normal health.

Help with mobility can be that your child can't walk, they can only walk short distances without feeling severe discomfort, the effort of walking could threaten their life or affect their health, or they are severely sight impaired or deaf, for example.

You may be able to show that your child's needs are more than those normally required by comparing her/his situation with that of their siblings, friends or other children of their age.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD'S ILLNESS IS TERMINAL

If your child has been diagnosed as having less than six months to live they can claim under what are known as the 'special rules'. You'll need to talk to your child's doctor, specialist or consultant, or the clinical nurse specialist, as they will need to fill in a DS1500 form for you to send in with the completed DLA form.

A child who is terminally ill is entitled to the highest rate of the care part of DLA. However, you will still need to complete the questions in the application form about your child's mobility, so they can decide what level of the mobility part they should get.

If your child lives longer than six months they will continue to get DLA.

What happens when a child turns 16?

A new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is replacing DLA for people aged 16-64. You will get a letter shortly before your child's 16th birthday telling you about changing to PIP.

HOSPITAL INPATIENTS

The rules about DLA payments for children in hospital changed in 2016.

The new rules mean that all inpatients who were admitted when they were under 18 should continue to get DLA or Personal Independence Payments (PIP), the new payment replacing DLA for people over 16, as normal for the time they are in hospital. This is also true for young people who turn 18 while they're in hospital.

Young people who were aged 18 or over when they became an inpatient will have their DLA payments suspended once they have spent 28 days in hospital.

For more information about the rules regarding DLA payments during a hospital stay, speak to your CLIC Sargent Social Worker or a welfare rights adviser.

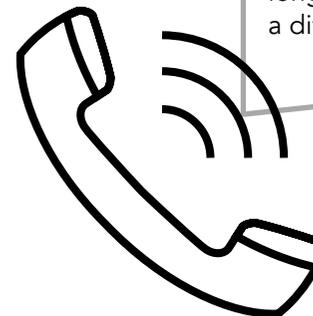
HOW DO I APPLY FOR DLA?

You can apply for DLA for a child as long as you look after them as a parent would. So if you're a step parent, guardian, grandparent, foster parent or even sibling – if you're caring for a child as a parent would then you can claim. As claims cannot be backdated, it's important you apply for DLA as soon as your child becomes entitled.

To make a claim in **England, Scotland or Wales** for DLA you can contact the Disability Service Centre on **0345 605 6055** or telephone **0345 604 5312** and request an application form. You can also download the form at gov.uk and apply by post using the address on the form.

If you're in **Northern Ireland**, you can get a claim pack for DLA at nidirect.gov.uk or call the Disability and Carer's Service on **0300 123 3356** or telephone **028 9031 1092**.

It's important to report any change of circumstances – for example, a change in your child's condition or an inpatient stay – as soon as possible, as your child may no longer be eligible for DLA or may qualify for a different amount.

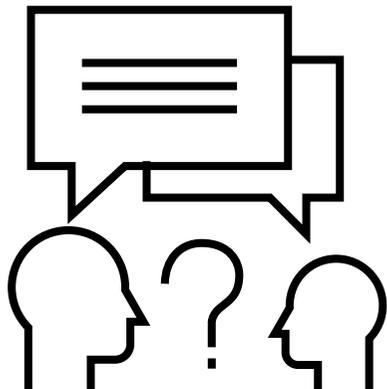


ABOUT CLIC SARGENT

CLIC Sargent is the UK's leading cancer charity for children, young people and their families. Our care teams have been providing expert support across the UK for years.

CLIC Sargent provides information, advice and guidance to help young people and their families take control and make decisions about their treatment and future.

Visit clicsargent.org.uk for more information and support.



NEED HELP?

Contact CLIC Sargent's free telephone welfare advice service

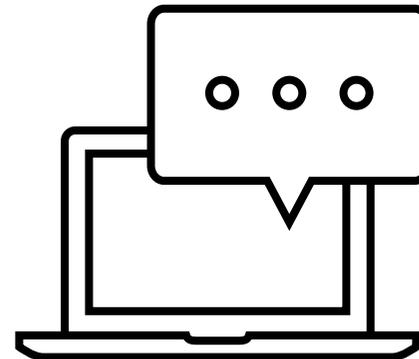
by calling
0800 915 4439

or emailing
welfareadvice@clicsargent.org.uk

Advisers can answer questions about the forms you need to fill in, or benefits in general. They can also let you know about other organisations that can help you.

For more information

Find out more about DLA by going to citizensadvice.org and searching for 'DLA'. Since the information differs for different parts of the UK, make sure the page is set to provide information relevant to the country you're in.



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