

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PAYMENTS FOR FAMILY CARERS

CARERS ALLOWANCE:

Means-tested payment for Carers looking after someone in need of full-time care.

To be entitled to a Carer's Allowance the Carers must be:

- Aged 18 and over, satisfy a means test and the habitual residence condition and provide fulltime care.
- Living with the person you care for or reasonably close by.
- NOT be engaged in employment or training outside the home for more than 15 hours a week.
- Automatically eligible for the Respite Care Grant, Household Benefits Package and a Free Travel Pass.

The person being cared for must be:

- Over the age of 16 and so incapacitated as to require full-time care OR aged under 16 and in receipt of a Domiciliary Care Allowance.
- Be so incapacitated as to require continuous supervision in order to avoid danger to him or herself or continual supervision and frequent assistance throughout the day in connection with normal bodily functions, and be likely to require full-time care and attention for a period of at least twelve months.

Carer	Under age 66 (max)	Over age 66 (max)
Caring for 1 person	€204	€239
Increase for Qualified Child	€29.80 (Full Rate) / €14.90 (Half Rate)	

Note: An additional 50% of the max personal rate is paid to Carers providing care to more than one person.

HALF RATE CARERS ALLOWANCE

If you are getting certain social welfare payments¹ and are also providing full-time care to another person, you may be able to keep your main social welfare payment and get half-rate Carer's Allowance as well. However you must meet all the qualifying criteria for Carer's Allowance (set out above). If conditions are met then the Allowance will be awarded at 50% of the full rate. The Carers will automatically be eligible for the Respite Care Grant, Household Benefits Package and a Free Travel Pass.

¹ State Pension (Contributory) and Increase for a Qualified Adult (QA), Deserted Wife's Benefit, Invalidity Pension and Increase for a QA, Jobseeker's Benefit Increase for a QA, Illness Benefit and Increase for a QA, Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension, Injury Benefit and Increase for a QA, Death Benefit, Health and Safety Benefit, Maternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit, State Pension (Non-Contributory) and Increase for a QA, Blind Pension and Increase for a QA, Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension, One-Parent Family Payment, State Pension (Transition) and Increase for a QA, Pre-Retirement Allowance and Increase for a QA, Jobseeker's Allowance Increase for a QA, Disability Allowance and Increase for a QA, Incapacity Supplement and Increase for a QA, Farm Assist and Increase for a QA..

Half Rate Carers Allowance Max	Under age 66 (max)	Over age 66 (max)
Caring for 1 person	€102	€119.50

Note: An additional 50% of the max personal rate is paid to Carers providing care to more than one person.

CARERS BENEFIT

Non-means tested payment of €205 p.w. made to insured persons who leave work to care for a person(s) in need of full-time care. You can get Carer's Benefit for a total of 104 weeks for each person cared for. This may be claimed as a single continuous period or in a number of separate periods up to a total of 104 weeks.

Carer's Leave

Your right to Carer's Leave from employment complements the Carer's Benefit Scheme. Carer's Leave allows Carers to leave their employment temporarily for up to 104 weeks to provide full-time care for people in need of full-time care. The leave is unpaid but people who take Carer's Leave have their jobs kept open for the duration of the leave. You do not have to be eligible for Carer's Benefit to get Carer's Leave.

You may be eligible for Carer's Benefit if:

- You are aged 16 or over and under 66.
- You have been in employment for at least 8 weeks in the previous 26 weeks. You must have worked for a minimum of 16 hours per week or 32 hours per fortnight.
- You give up work in order to be a full-time Carer.
- You meet the PRSI contribution conditions
- The person being cared for is so incapacitated as to require full-time care and attention
- Must NOT be engaged in employment or training outside the home for more than 15 hours a week. The maximum amount you can earn is €332.50 per week.

RESPITE CARE GRANT

Annual, non-means tested payment of €1700 for Carers who look after people in need of full-time care. Carers can use the grant in whatever way they wish. Full grant is paid for each person cared for. Paid automatically in June of each year to Carers getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit, Prescribed Relative's Allowance or Domiciliary Care Allowance.

Carers not in receipt of these payments may still be eligible for the Grant if they satisfy these conditions:

- Aged 16 or over, ordinarily resident in the State and caring for the person on a full-time basis.
- Caring for the person for at least six months - this period must include the first Thursday in June
- NOT be working or studying outside the home for more than 15 hours per week.