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## My daughter calls to see that I'm alright. Do I need 'Supervision'?

To get AA for **supervision**, you must need this all the time, to avoid a real risk of injury or other harm. If you are safe left alone and could use a 'lifeline' personal alarm to get help in an emergency, you are unlikely to get AA.

June has dementia and often gets confused. She forgets food she is cooking, leaves her doors unlocked and can wander and get lost. Because her memory lapses are unpredictable and could have serious consequences she should have continual supervision and might get AA.



Even if nobody watches over her most of the time, because the need for very frequent checks exists, she 'requires' supervision and should get AA

## If I get Attendance Allowance, must I use it 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, equipment to help them manage or for daily living expenses.

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## What about other benefits?

If you get AA, someone who looks after you might be able to claim **Carer's Allowance (CA)**. This cannot be someone employed to help you, like a care worker or cleaner but is usually 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 for this.

Only **one person** can claim for looking after you, even if you need more than 35 hours of care, or two or more people share your care. 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** claiming CA, you may get extra **Pension Credit and Housing Benefit**, or qualify for these benefits for the first time. Have a look at our **Benefits for Older People** leaflet for an example and, if you start to get AA, ask us for a benefit check.

For more information go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or contact our Citizens Advice Helpline: 03444 111 444

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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# Potteries Gold

## Guide to ...

# Attendance Allowance

## A Disability Benefit for Older People



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## What is Attendance Allowance?

Attendance Allowance or "AA" is one of the oldest Social Security benefits, dating back to the National Insurance Act 1970.

AA is a **non-means-tested** benefit. This means that you don't have to have a low income to claim it and any savings you have are ignored.

AA is also a **non-contributory benefit**. This means you can claim it even if you haven't paid National Insurance.

Attendance allowance is **'disregarded'** (not counted) when working out means-tested benefits like **Pension Credit** and **Housing Benefit**. In fact, claiming Attendance Allowance might help you to qualify for, or get more of, these benefits.

You can only claim Attendance Allowance if you are **at least 65 years old**. 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 65, read our leaflet about **Personal Independence Payment**.



## How do I qualify for AA?

You must be aged **65 or over** when you first claim and need someone to care for you, providing either **attention** or **supervision**. There is no mobility component with Attendance Allowance.

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

If you are **'terminally ill'** and, unfortunately, medical advice is that you are not likely 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.

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 further advice about this.

## How much is it?

The lower rate of **£55.10 per week** can be paid if you need attention or supervision only during the day or just at night.

The higher rate of **£82.30** is paid if you need care during the day and at night.

## My neighbour shops for me. Do I need 'Attention'?

**'Attention'** for AA must be **'in connection with your bodily functions'** and be 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, to wash, shower and bathe, use the WC or deal with incontinence aids, to get dressed and undressed, to move about safely indoors and to feed yourself all count.

Someone shopping and cleaning for you doesn't count but, if you do your own chores, help from someone which enables you to do this might.

Eric's eyesight is poor. Even with glasses, he has great difficulty seeing things properly. He likes to be independent and do his own shopping. Eric cannot read the prices and sometimes makes mistakes about what is in tins, so his son Ryan goes with him.

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

