

'Non-consensual Conception'

Another situation where you may be entitled to Child Tax Credit for a third or later child born after 6th April 2017 is if the child was born as a result of **rape** or conceived within a domestic abuse situation involving **coercion and control**.

This is a very difficult and sensitive issue and we are concerned about how this will work in practice while respecting the privacy of people affected. Please do not be offended if we have to ask about this to check your benefits.

Although you will not have to have taken legal action against the father of the child, evidence will be required from a **professional person** that the child is likely to have been conceived as a result of rape. If there has been a conviction or compensation award for rape, or for domestic coercion and control, this is also evidence.

If a third or later child has been conceived within a domestic abuse situation involving coercion and control, the child element will not be paid for that child if you are still living with your abuser.



What if my child is Disabled?

If your third, fourth or later child born after 6th April 2017 is disabled and you get **Disability Living Allowance** for him/her, although no extra child element is included in your Tax Credits you will be paid a **disabled child element** worth about £60 per week or £85 if your child gets the higher rate of DLA for care.



No 'Family Element' for new claims

If you are making a **new Child Tax Credit** claim after **6th April 2017**, your award will no longer include the Family Element, worth £10.45 per week. If you already get CTC you will keep your Family Element.

Housing Benefit Changes

The same rules about children you can claim Child Tax Credit for also apply to Housing Benefit. If you have more than two children but only get Tax Credits for the first two, you will also have your Housing Benefit assessed as if you were a two-child family.

For more information go to 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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Tax Credit Changes for Families

From April 2017



Whose Tax Credits are Changing?

From April 2017, the way Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit and Universal Credit is worked out will change for larger families.

If you already have two or more children, you will not receive any extra Child Tax Credit if you have another child after 6th April 2017.

This new “two child limit” applies whether you are working, unemployed or sick.



If you already have three or more children and they were born before 6th April 2017, your Child Tax Credit will still be worked out with a ‘child element’ of £53.34 per week for each of them, whether this is a new claim or you already get Tax Credits.

You can still claim Child Benefit for all of your children, whether they were born before or after April 6th 2017.

My child was born after 6th April 2017. Will I get extra Child Tax Credit?

You will be able to claim Child Tax Credit for a baby born after 6th April 2017 if s/he is your first or second child. There are other special situations where you can also get extra Child Tax Credit.

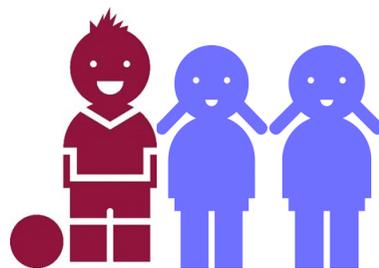
What if I have twins?

Even if you have three or more children and one or more of them was born after 6th April 2017, you might get extra Child Tax Credit if you have a multiple birth.

The Tax Credit rules accept that sometimes parents might plan for one extra child but actually have a multiple birth and have to care for more children than they budgeted for.

If you have a 5 year old, a 3 year old already and then have twins, you get a child element for the two older children and one of the twins.

If you have a 3 year old and then have twins, you get child elements for all three children.



If you have a 10 year old, a 6 year old and a 3 year old, but then have triplets, you get child elements for the three older children and two of the triplets.

Example

Marcia has two children and has recently separated from her partner. She earns £180 per week and gets Tax Credits of £170 and Child Benefit of £34.40.

She is expecting a baby in June 2017. When this child is born, Marcia will be able to claim another £13.70 child benefit but no additional Tax Credits or Housing Benefit.



What if I adopt a child?

There are some special rules on adoption and fostering. Unless it is your step-child, you will be able to claim for a child you have adopted, even if that child was born after 6th April 2017 and will take the number of children in your family to three or more.

If you are looking after a child, for a friend or family member, through an informal agreement, perhaps because the parent is in hospital or prison, you may be able to claim Child Tax Credit for him/her, even if you already claim for two or more children.

You will need proof from a Social Worker that they are aware of the arrangement.