
LLEWELYN DAVIES

CHILD TAX CREDIT



Working as a team

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This leaflet explains what the Child Tax Credit is, who can get it and how to make a claim.

Child Tax Credit is the way that families can get money for their children, and for some 16 to 18 year olds, and is based on their income. They can claim whether or not they are in work. It replaced the previous tax credits and benefits with a single system – so all families with children, with income of up to £58,175 a year, will be able to claim the credit in the same way.

Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit were introduced to improve the way the Government supports families with children and working people on low incomes.

Who can claim?

To qualify for tax credits, you must live in the United Kingdom (that is, England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland). If you are a single (or separated) person, you make a claim based on your individual circumstances.

If you are:

- Part of a married couple living together, or civil partners, living together and not separated, or
- A couple living together as if you are married or in a civil partnership

You must claim together, based on your joint circumstances.

Can I Claim?

You can claim Child Tax Credit if you are responsible for one child (or young person) or more. You do not have to be working to claim.

Child Tax Credit will provide support for:

- A child until 1 September following his or her 16th birthday, or
- A young person 16 to 18 who:
 - Is in full-time education, up to and including “A” levels, NVQ level 3 or Scottish Highers?
 - Has left full-time education but does not have a job or a training place and has registered with the Careers Service or Connexions Service.
 - Is not claiming Income Support or tax credits in his or her own right.
 - Is not serving a custodial sentence of four months or more imposed by a court.

How much can I claim?

Child Tax Credit will be paid in addition to Child Benefit and any Working Tax Credit.

The 2009/2010 rates are as follows:

Element	Annual	Approx. Weekly Equivalent
Family	£545	£10
Baby	£545	£10
Child	£2235	£43
Disability	£2670	£51
Severe disability	£1075	£21

What counts as income?

In general, income, which is taxable, will also count as income in tax credit claims, for example: earnings from employment or self-employment.

- Some Social Security benefits, and
- Income from savings.

The guidance notes issued with the claim form will explain in more detail what counts as income.

What if I have a new baby?

You will receive a higher rate of Child Tax Credit, which is paid in the year following a child's birth.

How will Child Tax Credit be paid?

Child Tax Credit will be paid directly to the person who is mainly responsible for caring for the children in the family. You can choose whether to receive payments weekly or every four weeks.

What if I get Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance?

If you qualify for Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance you will be entitled to the maximum amount of Child Tax Credit for your children. **You do not need to make a claim for Child Tax Credit now.** The Department for Work and Pensions will contact you directly to let you know how the new tax credits will affect you and your benefit.

How do I make a claim or get more information?

By filling in and returning the paper form, or

By going online at www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits

If you don't have access to the Internet, you can check your eligibility or get a claim pack by phoning **02890 538 192**. This line is open between 8.00a.m. and 8.00p.m. seven days a week.

If you need further advice about Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit or the claim forms you can:

- Phone the Helpline on **02890 538 192**.
- Textphone the Helpline on **0845 300 3909**
- Visit any Inland Revenue Centre.

We hope the contents are a useful summary. We have taken every care in the preparation of the leaflet, however, we can accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned by any person acting or refraining from action as a result of this material.

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