

## Underlying Entitlement to Carer's Allowance

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### What is an underlying entitlement to Carer's Allowance?

An underlying entitlement to a benefit means that whilst you satisfy the criteria for the benefit, you cannot be paid it. In the case of Carer's Allowance, you may not be paid it if you are getting certain other benefits, as benefit rules state that you cannot get paid both at the same time.

### Am I eligible for an underlying entitlement?

While there is no upper age limit for claiming Carer's Allowance, payment of Carer's Allowance usually stops when you reach retirement age because your State Pension will be paid instead. The exception to this is if your State Pension is less than the amount of Carer's Allowance, in which case you could continue to be paid a small amount of Carer's Allowance. This is because a State Pension is an overlapping benefit.

However, you may still be able to get some extra money in recognition of your caring role, because you can still have an underlying entitlement to Carer's Allowance.

If your state pension is more than the amount of Carer's Allowance rate and you qualify for Carer's Allowance because you care for someone who is on the correct rate of a disability benefit (i.e. Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment), then you can be awarded an underlying entitlement. You are not paid any Carer's Allowance, but the underlying entitlement might help you to qualify for means tested benefits or an increase in your current means tested benefit, such as Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. These benefits can include an extra amount called a carer's premium or addition.

### How to claim



If you think you may be eligible for an underlying entitlement, call the **St Barnabas Welfare and Benefits Team** on **01476 513544**, who will assist you to make an application.

