

Carer's Benefit

Carer's Benefit is a weekly payment for full-time carers of people with cancer and other illnesses from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

It is for people who pay PRSI and have had to leave the workforce to care for someone who is in need of full-time care.

What is the rate of payment?

Carer's Benefit rates

Carer	Maximum weekly rate	Increase per week for a child dependant
Caring for 1 person	€ 220	Child under 12 years of age €38 (full-rate) €19 (half-rate) Child aged 12 and over €45 (full-rate) €22.50 (half-rate)
Caring for more than 1 person	€ 330.00	

If you are getting Carer's Benefit, you may also be entitled to:

- A GP Visit Card
- Carer's Support Grant

Who can apply?

To qualify for Carer's Benefit, you must:

- Be aged 16 or over
- Have been employed for at least 8 weeks in the previous 26-week period and left work in order to be a full-time carer
- Meet the PRSI contribution conditions
- Be able to provide medical certification for the person being cared for
- Not take part in employment, self-employment, training or education courses outside the home for more than 18.5 hours a week

Eoin (54) is a teacher and his wife has been undergoing treatment for colon cancer. Her doctor has advised that she will soon need full-time care at home. Eoin has decided to take Carer's Leave from work to take care of his wife. As he has been working in the same school for several years, he has enough PRSI contributions to apply for Carer's Benefit. Eoin should apply for Carer's Benefit 10 weeks before he leaves work. He will need his employer's and his wife's signatures, as well as a medical report from her doctor. Eoin may qualify for Carer's Benefit for up to 104 weeks.

How do I apply?

It is recommended that you apply for Carer's Benefit 10 weeks before you leave work.

To apply, visit the [Department of Social Protection website](#) to download and complete form CARB1. You will need your employer's signature, as well as the signature of the person for whom you are caring and a medical report from their doctor.

Return the application form, and the relevant supporting documentation, to:

Carer's Benefit Section
Social Welfare Services Office
Government Buildings
Ballinalee Road
Co. Longford

Or

You can visit your local [Social Welfare Office or Intreo Centre](#) to complete and submit an application.

The information above is an overview of Carers Benefit

For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

- Visit [Citizens Information](#) online
- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- Contact your Medical Social Worker