

Guide to Entitlements and Supports



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Guide to Entitlements for Children with Disabilities 2008

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Introduction

Introduction

This booklet provides information and details on entitlements for children who have a physical disability. It covers the areas of financial supports, medical costs, income tax and special schemes. Our other booklet 'Parents and Carers' is also worth referring to.

The information is given as clearly as possible and we hope that you find this guide both useful and informative.

An Information Board containing relevant application forms and leaflets is located at the Social Work Department CRC, Clontarf, Tel. 01 8542333 and in Central Remedial Clinic Services for Children, Waterford Tel. 051-301050. Updates are available on our website www.crc.ie.

Your Social Worker is available to support your application or discuss any query you may have.

Geraldine Prunty
Principal Social Worker



Child Benefit

Child Benefit

Children with a disability are entitled to the usual children's allowances. The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs pays Child Benefit to the parents or guardians for each child living with them and being supported by them. The payment is monthly and is not means tested.

You **will** qualify if your child is:

- ☛ normally living with and being supported by you
- ☛ is under the age of 16
- ☛ aged 16, 17, 18, in full-time education, or with a disability.

Number of children and monthly rates as of April 2008

One child	€166.00
Two children	€332.00
Three children	€535.00
Four children	€738.00
Five children	€941.00

For twin children and other multiple births special rates apply:

- For twins child benefit is paid at one and a half times (150%) - the normal monthly rate for each child.
- For all other multiple births double the normal monthly rate - of Child Benefit is paid.

Special grants are available for all multiple births as follows:

- At birth €635.00
- At age 4 €635.00
- At age 12 €635.00

Application forms are available from your local Post Office or Child Benefit Information LoCall Tel: 1890 400 400, Homepage: <http://www.welfare.ie>



Early Childcare Supplement

This is a payment introduced in April 2006 to parents of children under 6 years of age. It is intended to help parents of children under the age of six to meet their childcare needs. If you are in receipt of Child Benefit the supplement will automatically be paid to you.

The current payment is €1,100 (2008) per child under 6 years of age.

For further information about Early Childcare Supplement, please contact: Early Childcare Supplement Section, St. Oliver Plunkett Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Telephone: 1890 60 50 40

Domiciliary Care Allowance

This is a payment from the Health Services Executive (HSE) to the parent/carer of a child with a disability who lives at home. The allowance is in recognition of the additional care and attention needed to care for child with a disability. The allowance is available from birth up to 16 years. The allowance is payable from the date of application.

While the parent's income is not taken into account, any income the child may have is taken into account e.g. money from a compensation settlement. To qualify the disability must be such that the child needs substantially more care and supervision than a child of the same age.

Payment is €299.60 per month plus an annual respite payment of €1,700 when caring for one child or €3,400 when caring for more than one child (2008).

If you receive the Domiciliary Care Allowance you may also be entitled to the Carer's Allowance/Benefit. Parents/Carer's are entitled to one Respite Payment. If you receive the Carers Allowance/Benefit you will receive your Respite Payment directly from the Carers Section

Applications forms are available from your Health Services Executive, Health Center, HSE Infoline Tel: 1850 241 850 and from the Social Work Dept., C.R.C.



Respite Care Grant

If you are **not** in receipt of the Domiciliary Care Allowance or Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit it is possible to apply for an annual Respite Care Grant. The Respite Care Grant is an annual payment for carers who look after certain people in need of full-time care and attention.

The payment is made regardless of the carer's means but is subject to certain conditions.

You **will** qualify if you the carer:

- are aged 16 or over,
- are ordinarily resident in the State,
- care for the person on a full-time basis,
- care for the person for at least six months - this period of care must include the first Thursday in June.
- live with the person you are looking after or can be contacted quickly by a direct system of communication (for example, a telephone or alarm) between your home and the home of the person you are caring for.

Also, the person you are caring for **must**:

- be incapacitated as to need full-time care and attention - (medical certification is required), for at least six months.
This period of care must include the first Thursday in June.
or
- not normally live in a hospital, convalescent home or other similar institution,
or
- not receive full-time care and attention within their own home from another person.

Respite Care Grant (cont)

You will **not qualify if you the carer are:**

- working outside the home for more than 15 hours a week,
or
- getting or are entitled to Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance or signing for Jobseeker Credits,
or
- living in a hospital, convalescent home or similar institution.

From June 2008, the Respite Care Grant is €1,700 for each person you are caring for. It is paid once a year by cheque.

To apply you and your Child's Doctor need to complete an application form.

Application forms are available from the Social Work Department CRC and from LoCall Leaflet Request Line on Tel: 1890 20 23 25, Respite Care Grant Section, PO Box 10085, Dublin 2, Tel: 01 673 2222.



Medical Card

The Health Services Executive (HSE) administers and provides medical cards. Medical cardholders are entitled to a range of health services free of charge. These include, doctors, drugs and hospital services.

Most people have to have means below a certain limit in order to qualify. Your income after tax and PRSI deductions is assessed. Deductions are also made for your rent or mortgage costs, childcare expenses and travel to work expenses. You are also given an allowance for each of your dependent children. This allowance is then deducted from your income for the purposes of assessment of your means.

Persons with an income such as the One-Parent Family Payment, Carers Allowance, amongst others are regarded as being eligible for a medical card.

Where a person may not ordinarily be entitled to a medical card the Health Services Executive (HSE) have some flexibility awarding the card in exceptional circumstances e.g. where there are large medical expenses.

Application forms and full guidelines are available from your Health Services Executive (HSE), Health Center, HSE Infoline Tel:1850 241 850 and from the Social Work Dept. C.R.C.



GP Visit Card

A GP Visit Card entitles you to visit your Family Doctor free of charge. It is administered by the HSE and is means tested. The income guidelines for GP visit card are higher than for the Medical Card. It does not cover the cost of prescribed drugs, medicines and other health services.

The GP Visit Card is a plastic card, about the same size as a credit card. It carries your full name/family name, your sex, the name of your GP and the validity period of the Card.

Anyone can apply for a GP Visit Card - families, single people, even those working full time. In order to apply for a GP Visit Card, you must be ordinarily resident in Ireland. That is, you must be currently living in Ireland and intend to continue to live here for a year.

To apply for a GP Visit Card, you use the same application form as that for a medical card. While your GP Visit Card application is being processed, the HSE will also assess your entitlement for a full medical card.

Application forms and full guidelines are available from your Health Services Executive (HSE), Health Center, HSE Infoline Tel: 1850 241 850 and from the Social Work Dept. C.R.C.



HSE Income Guidelines for Medical and GP Visit Cards 2008

To qualify your weekly income is assessed. Any income tax and PRSI you pay is deducted from your weekly income for the purpose of the assessment for eligibility for the medical card or GP visit card. Deductions are also made for your rent or mortgage costs, childcare expenses and travel to work expenses. You are also given an allowance for each of your dependent children.

To qualify, you can have a weekly income up the amount listed below after income tax and PRSI, deductions and other relevant expenses are taken into account.

2008	Medical Card Rate per week	GP Visit Card Rate per week
Single person living alone aged up to 65 years	€184.00	€276.00
Single person living with family aged up to 65 years	€164.00	€246.00
Married couple & Single parent with dependent children	€266.50	€400.00

Application forms and full guidelines are available from your Health Services Executive (HSE), Health Center, HSE Infoline Tel: 1850 241 850 and from the Social Work Dept. C.R.C.



Long Term Illness and Disability Scheme

Children and adults with certain conditions can apply to join the **Long Term Illness and Disability Scheme** (LTI) and you will be given a LTI book. This book allows you to get drugs, medicines, medical and surgical appliances free of charge directly related to the treatment of your illness or disability. This scheme is not means tested but is dependent on your doctor confirming you have one or the following:

- ☛ Phenylketonuria
- ☛ Mental Handicap
- ☛ Muscular Dystrophies
- ☛ Cystic Fibrosis
- ☛ Spina Bifida
- ☛ Multiple Sclerosis
- ☛ Acute Leukaemia
- ☛ Mental Illness (*for persons under 16 years only*)
- ☛ Hydrocephalus
- ☛ Haemophilia
- ☛ Cerebral Palsy
- ☛ Epilepsy
- ☛ Diabetes Mellitus
- ☛ Diabetes Insipidus
- ☛ Parkinsonism

If a Medical Card has already been issued it may not be necessary to apply for the long-term illness card.

Further information and application forms are available from your Health Services Executive (HSE), Local Health Office, HSE Infoline Tel: 1850 241 850 and from the Social Work Dept. C.R.C.



Drugs Payment Scheme

Under the Drugs Payment Scheme an individual or family only has to pay a maximum amount monthly for all approved prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances for use by that person or his/her family in that month.

Family expenditure covers the nominated adult, his or her spouse/partner, children under 18 years or under 23 years in full time education. Also a person regardless of their age with a disability or illness living in the household, who is unable to fully maintain themselves, may be included in the family expenditure.

The current maximum monthly rate is €90 per calendar month (2008).

Registration forms for the scheme are available from your Pharmacy or Health Services Executive (HSE), Local Health Office, HSE Infoline Tel: 1850 241 850.





Diet Supplement Allowance

If a Dietician, Hospital Consultant or Registrar has prescribed for your child a special diet, it may be possible to claim an allowance from the Health Services Executive towards the cost of the special diet.

This is a means tested payment.

The Special Diets covered are:

Diet	Child Rate 2008
Low Lactose, Milk Free	€3.50
Gluten Free	€6.50
High Protein, High Calorie	€9.50
Altered Consistence (liquidised)	€13.00

Further information and application forms are available from your Community Welfare Officer based in your local Health Services Executive Board, Health Centre.

Supply of Nappies

This scheme provides nappies free of charge to children of age 3 years and upward with disabilities that use nappies.

The supply is restricted to 62 nappies a month.

Your local Public Health Nurse will meet with you to discuss further.

Your Public Health Nurse can be contacted at your Local Health Services Executive (HSE), Local Health Office, HSE Infoline Tel: 1850 241 850.



Incapacitated Child Tax Credit

Where a parent is paying income tax a tax credit of €3,660 (2008) may be claimed. This allowance is available to a parent/guardian of a child with a permanent disability. The parent's income level does not affect the entitlement to claim.

To claim simply write to your tax office:

- Naming the allowance claimed
- The name of the child and date of birth
- Enclose a letter from your child's Doctor showing;
The date the disability arose and -
The degree and extent of the incapacity.

Further information is available from:-

**The Revenue Information Office, Dublin Region, Tel: 1890 33 34 25,
East & South East Region Tel: 1890 44 44 25, Home page: www.revenue.ie.**

Please note:

'Incapacitated' refers to being unable to care for oneself – a child needing more care and supervision than a child would normally need.





Health /Medical Expenses Relief (MED 1 & 2)

Most of us have medical bills. Some of these bills are covered by health insurance or by the HSE, some are not. Most medical bills and prescription charges you pay can be claimed as a tax relief. You may claim tax relief for expenses incurred by yourself and for your spouse and for your dependent child and for a dependent relative. You send in the details to the revenue and they send you a refund. Most medical expenses, with the exception of routine dental and ophthalmic treat

Expenses include:

- Cost of doctor's and consultant's visits
- Certain items prescribed by a doctor or consultant
- Cost of Speech and Language Therapy for a qualifying child
- Cost of Educational Psychological Assessment for a qualifying child
- Transport by ambulance
- Specialised dental treatment
- Kidney patient's expenses

Where prescribed by a doctor includes:

- Drugs and medicines
- Diagnostic procedures
- Orthoptic or similar treatments
- Hearing Aid
- Orthopaedic bed/chair
- Wheelchair/Wheelchair lift
- Engaging a qualified nurse in the case of a serious illness
- Physiotherapy or similar treatment
- Cost of a computer where it is necessary to alleviate communication problems of a severely disabled person
- Cost of gluten free foods for coeliacs.
- Glucometer machine for a diabetic

To apply you need to complete a form 'Med 1'.

Full details and application forms available from:-

The Revenue Information Dublin Region Tel: 1890 33 34 25,

East & South East Region Tel: 1890 44 44 25, Home page: www.revenue.ie





Disability Allowance

This is a weekly allowance paid to people with a disability who are aged 16 and over and under the age of 66. The disability must be expected to last for at least one year and the allowance is subject to both medical suitability and a means test. For families that receive the Domiciliary Care Allowance, this payment stops when your child reaches age of 16 and the Disability Allowance is paid to the child in his/her own right. The weekly payment for the Disability Allowance is €197.80 (2008) per week.

Application forms for the Disability Allowance are available from the Social Work Department, CRC and The Disability Allowance Section, Government Buildings, Ballinalee Road, Longford, Tel: 01 7043948/ 043 45211.



Assessment Of Need

Any parent who feels that their child, under 5 years of age, may have a disability can apply to have their child's needs assessed by the HSE. Under Disability Act 2005, Part 2 children under 5 years of age with disabilities have a right to:

- An independent assessment of their health and educational needs arising from their disability
- An assessment report
- A statement of the services they will receive
- Make a complaint if they are not happy with any part of the process

Any parent who feels that their child aged under 5 may have a disability can apply for an assessment. An application can also be made by a guardian. Applications must be made in writing on a standard form which is available from your Local Health Office.

To find out more call the HSE Infoline on 1850 24 1850 or visit www.hse.ie