

Citizens Advice Camden Information Sheet 3: Child Tax Credit

020 7829 8896

Take home message

- *Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a benefit paid by HMRC to families with children*
- *If a child is entitled to DLA, the family will get more CTC through the disabled child elements*
- *The disabled child elements can be backdated in full but only if HMRC are told within 30 days of the DLA award*

How Child Tax Credit (CTC) works

- For CTC, you must not have a 'no recourse' restriction and you must have a right to reside. See Sheet 8 and refer to us if the client is from abroad.
- CTC is means-tested - you get less or none if you have income over a certain amount. The maximum is made up of a number of elements:
 - Family element (£545 pa - paid once)
 - Child element (£2,780 pa - each qualifying child)
 - Disabled child element (£3,140 pa - each qualifying child)
 - Severely disabled child element (£1,275 pa - each qualifying child)
- The disabled child element is paid where a child in the household gets any rate of Disability Living Allowance (DLA - see Sheet 1). The severely disabled child element is paid where a child gets DLA highest rate care. These elements are paid on top of each other and they are paid even if DLA is not paid because the child is a hospital inpatient.
- If someone who gets CTC is awarded DLA for their child, then the disabled child elements will be backdated to the start date of the DLA. This only applies if HMRC are notified of the DLA award within 30 days of its date.
- Claims for DLA can take many months, sometimes over a year or more if there is an appeal to the Tribunal Service. If the 30 day deadline is missed, then the family can miss out on thousands of pounds. This income is absolutely crucial to many families, especially those unable to work due to the illness of their child.

Disclaimer

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Any queries regarding these sheets should be directed to us on 020 7829 8896.