

Council Tax Benefit & Reductions

Hafal Tip: There are two main ways of reducing how much council tax you pay:
If you are on low or no income, you can get council tax benefit, or
If you or the people you live with can be 'discounted', you can get up to 50% off your bill.

Benefit

You get this:

- According to your circumstances including your income, savings and the size of your family,
- Only if you are liable for paying council tax in your home,
- If you receive Income Support, Income-based Job-Seeker's Allowance or Pension Credit.

Any benefit awarded may be reduced if you have non-dependent adults living with you. That is, people who could be contributing to payment of the council tax bill. The amount of the reduction depends on how much they earn.

Hafal Tip: Get claim forms for council tax benefit and discounts from your local authority.

Reducing your bill (Second Adult Rebate or Alternative Maximum Council Tax Benefit)

If you live alone you can get the single person discount of 25%. However, the same discount can apply if you or the people you live with are not counted for council tax purposes, (as long as this would leave only a single person in the home who is liable for the tax).

Hafal tip: If you AND anyone you live with should not be counted, then you can get a reduction in the bill of up to 50%.

You will not be counted if you either:

- receive the middle or highest rate care component of DLA or AA, or Incapacity Benefit, or Severe Disablement Benefit or Income Support with a disability premium, and
- your GP is willing to state that you are 'severely mentally impaired';

OR if you:

- provide care for at least 35 hours a week for some-one you live with, and
- the person you care for is not your spouse/co-habitee, nor your child if under 18, and
- the person you care for receives the highest rate care component of DLA or Attendance Allowance;

OR if you:

- are in full-time education.

Hafal Tip: There are other discounts available on council tax. You will need to check details with your local authority.



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