

Going into residential care

If you move into residential care but intend to return home you may be entitled to benefit for up to 52 weeks.

If you go into residential care on a trial basis you may be entitled to benefit for up to 13 weeks.

However you must intend to return home if the accommodation does not meet your needs.

If you go into residential care on a permanent basis you are no longer entitled to Housing or Council Tax Benefit on your former home.

How to make a claim for benefit whilst you are away from home

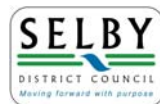
You must tell us as soon as possible if you are going away from home and wish to continue claiming Housing or Council Tax Benefit.

We will then confirm your details and write to you with our decision.

Other leaflets available:

- ▶ 1 How to claim
- ▶ 2 Non-dependant deductions
- ▶ 3 Overpayments
- ▶ 4 Extended payments
- ▶ 5 Understanding our Decision and Making an Appeal
- ▶ 6 Benefit on two homes
- ▶ 7 Benefit when you are away from home
- ▶ 8 Will you qualify?
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Housing & Council Tax Benefit



Benefit when you are away from home

Leaflet also available in large print

Introduction

This guide is one of a number produced with the aim of helping customers understand Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

It is intended as a general guide. People have different circumstances so for more detailed individual advice please contact your local Council's Benefits Service.

Benefit when you are away from home

Normally, Housing and Council Tax benefit is only payable for the property in which you live. However in certain circumstances benefit can be paid when you are away from home.

In order to qualify you must:

- Have a liability for rent; and
- Intend to return to the property following the absence; and
- Ensure the property is not sub-let or re-let while you are away.

The 13 week rule

You may be able to claim benefit when you are away from home for a period of up to 13 weeks if:

- You are on holiday and your circumstances do not change
- You are absent due to family reasons, for example, illness of a close relative or bereavement
- You are absent for religious reasons
- You are working away from home in the UK or abroad, either paid or unpaid
- You are a sentenced prisoner (benefit can only be awarded if the total absence including any period served on remand is likely to be less than 13 weeks)

You must not claim Housing or Council Tax Benefit elsewhere and you must intend to return to the property within 13 weeks.

The 52 week rule

You may be able to claim benefit whilst you are away from home for a period of up to 52 weeks if:

- You are a prisoner on remand. If you are sentenced you automatically fall under the 13 week rule
- You are a patient in hospital
- You are receiving medically approved care, treatment or convalescence, but not in residential care
- You are attending an approved training course
- You are providing care for a child whose parent or guardian is receiving medical treatment
- You are a certain type of student
- You are in fear of violence. There are exceptions to the rule, please see our separate leaflet (No. 6) "Benefit on two homes".

You must not claim Housing or Council Tax Benefit elsewhere and you must intend to return to the property within 52 weeks.