

Your Legal Questions

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Q My father is disabled. Is he entitled to any help with Council tax?

A Help is available through the disabled band reduction scheme which ensures that disabled people do not pay more because they need a larger property due to their disability. Having a disability does not of itself entitle your father to a reduction, to qualify the property must be his main residence and must also have at least one of :

- An additional bathroom or kitchen required to meet his needs
- A room (other than a kitchen, bathroom or toilet) required to meet his needs and used predominantly by him
- Extra space inside the property to allow for the use of a wheelchair

The extra room does not have to have been specifically built, but it (or the use of a wheelchair) must be of major importance to your father's well-being due to the extent of his disability.

If eligible, the Council Tax bill will be reduced to that of a property in the next Council Tax band down. If the property is in the lowest band it will still receive a reduction the same in cash terms as a reduction for properties in bands B, C or D. If your father is not physically disabled but is severely mentally impaired, he may still be eligible for a Council Tax reduction. To qualify your father will need a Doctor's certificate stating that he has a severe and permanent impairment of intelligence and social functioning and that he is entitled to one in a specified list of benefit payments.

If your father is not in receipt of one of the specified benefits, he may still qualify if he is over State Pension Age and, had he not been, would have been entitled to one of the specified benefits. If eligible, your father is not counted when adding up the number of people in a property e.g. if living alone, no council tax would be payable; if as a couple, the single occupancy discount of 25% would be applied