Non-dependants
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If you are claiming Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction or both, non-dependant adults that live with you can affect the level of benefit you receive.

This leaflet gives basic advice and is a general guide. If you have a question that is not answered in this leaflet, or if you want more advice, please contact us.

This leaflet is part of a series (illustrated opposite) produced by a group of local authorities to help make Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction easier to understand.

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**Who is a non-dependant?**

A non-dependant is someone aged 18 years or over who lives with you. It does not include someone living in your home who has a legally enforceable agreement to pay rent to you or your landlord.

Examples of a non-dependant would be a son, a daughter, stepson, stepdaughter or elderly relative.

**How does a non-dependant affect my benefit payment?**

If they live in your home, we normally have to reduce the amount of benefit you get. This is called a non-dependant deduction.

**How much are non-dependant deductions?**

The amount of deduction made depends on how much gross income your non-dependant has and whether they are working over 16 hours a week.

By gross income we mean all the money they get including earnings (before tax and National Insurance is deducted), social security benefits and interest paid on savings. We will need to see original proof of the non-dependant’s income and capital, for example pay slips and savings passbooks. If you don’t show us original proof (ie, not photocopies), we will deduct the maximum allowed.

Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance don’t count as income.

The non-dependant deductions are set by government and change every April. See the table opposite showing the current deduction levels.
**Non-dependant couples**

If the non-dependants living in your home are married to each other or living together as a couple, we add their incomes together and make one deduction from your benefit.

**Joint tenant or joint owner**

If you share your home with a joint tenant or joint owner and a non-dependant lives in the home with both of you, we will take only half the normal non-dependant deduction off your benefit.

**Non-dependant deduction table** *(April 2015)*

For each non-dependant:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RENT</th>
<th>COUNCIL TAX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>not in paid work</td>
<td>£14.15</td>
<td>£3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>receiving pension credit</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in paid work whose gross weekly income is:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than £128</td>
<td>£14.15</td>
<td>less than £188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£128 – £188</td>
<td>£32.45</td>
<td>£188 – £326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£188 – £245</td>
<td>£44.55</td>
<td>£326 – £406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£245 – £326</td>
<td>£72.95</td>
<td>£406 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£326 – £406</td>
<td>£83.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£406 or more</td>
<td>£91.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on a Youth Training Scheme</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in hospital for over 52 weeks</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who is in legal custody</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under 25 and receiving income support, Jobseeker’s Allowance (income based)</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aged 25 or over and receiving income support, Universal credit, Jobseeker’s Allowance (income based)</td>
<td>£14.15</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who is a full time student*</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A non-dependant deduction in respect of housing benefit only will apply if a student takes up work during the summer vacation.
When is a non-dependant deduction not made?

**Deductions are not made if you or your partner are:**
- registered blind;
- receiving Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance (care component).

**Deductions are not made from your benefit if the non-dependant adult living with you:**
- is aged under 25 and receiving Income Support or Universal Credit, Jobseeker’s Allowance;
- receives a Youth Training Allowance;
- has been a hospital in-patient for more than 52 weeks;
- is a prisoner;
- is a student (although deductions will be made if they work during the summer vacation);
- usually lives elsewhere:
  - receives Pension Credit.

**Participating authorities:** Broxbourne, Dacorum, Hertsmere, Ipswich, Lincoln City, North Herts, St Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers and Welwyn Hatfield.
Where to get help and advice

To get more information you can visit us at:
Three Rivers District Council
Three Rivers House
Northway, Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 1RL

Benefits officer
available: Mon to Fri 8.45am – 5.15pm
Fri 8.45am – 4.45pm
Telephone: 01923 278501 (benefits section)
Email: benefits@threerivers.gov.uk

Other organisations that provide help and advice
Citizens Advice Bureaux
For Watford, Rickmansworth, Abbots Langley & District, please call: 03444 111 444