



Property Reference Number

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Account No.

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COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY IMPAIRED

Please read the information provided before completing this form

You should complete this application in respect of any person who you consider should be disregarded, in the assessment of Council Tax discounts, because they are a severely mentally impaired.

Name of Taxpayer	
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Address of Property	
	Postcode

Contact Telephone Number	Email Address

Total number of adults resident in the property

Person to be disregarded

Full Name	
Qualifying Benefit received (see the notes overleaf)	
Date Benefit commenced	
National Insurance Number	
Name, address and telephone number of a Doctor (who has knowledge of the person to be disregarded)	

DECLARATION

I declare that the information given above is, to the best my knowledge, true and accurate, and I give permission for the Council to approach the Medical Practitioner(s) in order to verify the grounds for disregarding the persons shown.

Signed		Date	
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This document can be made available in large print, Braille, tape format or in other languages upon request

The Severely Mentally Impaired

The full Council Tax bill assumes that there are two adults residing in a dwelling. However, for Council Tax purposes, certain people will not be counted when looking at the number of adults. The effect of disregarding certain adults may be to reduce the Council Tax bill by 25% or 50%.

EXAMPLE based on 4 adults residing in a property

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) One person in disregarded category | 100% charge as there are still more than two adults to be counted |
| (2) Two persons in disregarded category | 100% charge as there are still two adults to be counted |
| (3) Three persons in disregarded category | 75% charge as only one adult is to be counted |
| (4) Four persons in disregarded category | No charge as there are no adults to be counted |

Below are answers to some questions about who should be disregarded, under this category, for the purpose of assessing Council Tax discount.

Q. How is 'severely mentally impaired' defined?

A. For the purposes of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, a person is severely mentally impaired if he/she has a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning (however caused) which appears to be permanent.

Q. What does this mean in practical terms?

A. A person will be disregarded on the grounds of being severely mentally impaired if:

(1) he/she is entitled to one of the following benefits:

- Incapacity benefit (either short-term, long-term or long-term for widows and widowers)
- Attendance allowance
- Severe disablement allowance
- The highest or middle rate care component of disability living allowance
- An increase in disablement pension for constant attendance
- Disabled person's tax credit, but only if this is because of the prior receipt of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance or income support which included a disability premium paid because of the claimant's incapacity for work
- Unemployability supplement (this was abolished in 1987 but existing claimants remain entitled)
- Constant attendance allowance payable under the industrial injuries or war pension schemes
- Unemployability allowance payable under the industrial injuries or war pension schemes
- Income support which includes a disability premium because of the claimant's incapacity for work

AND

(2) he/she is confirmed as being severely mentally impaired by a registered medical practitioner.

Q. What should I do if the person(s) I am applying for are not in receipt of one of the above benefits but I think that they may be entitled to it?

A. If you would like more information about any benefit, contact the Department for Work and Pensions.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Complete all parts of the form overleaf and return it, without delay, to the address shown. Once it has been assessed you will be notified of the Council's decision.

Q. For how long will the discount be allowed?

A. As long as there are less than two adults in a property who are not disregarded. If there is any change in circumstances then you must notify us at the address overleaf – failure to do so may result in a penalty being imposed.

Data Protection Act 1984

The information you provide on this form will be used to determine if you are eligible for a discount from your Council Tax and may be recorded on a computer. Although you are not obliged to give this information, the Council will be unable to assess your eligibility for a discount unless you do so.

If you have any further queries or need help completing this form, please do not hesitate to contact the Council.

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

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