

HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

Getting your claim backdated

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit normally starts on the Monday after the date you tell the Job Centre or the Council that you want to claim, **provided** you complete and return the appropriate forms to the Job Centre or the Council within one month of the date you register an interest in claiming. You will need to fill in this form if you are late claiming benefit **and** you think your claim should be paid from an earlier date. We call this *backdating your claim*.

We cannot backdate your benefit automatically. You need to prove that you have good reasons for not making your claim sooner if you want us to backdate it. Good reasons must exist for the whole period – starting with the date you want us to pay from, right up to the date that you ask us to consider backdating. **However, the law limits how far we can backdate your claim. If you are Pension Credit age (60+) the limit is 3 months, or if you are working age it's 6 months from the date you ask us to consider backdating your claim. If you are a man aged 60-64 the following rules apply:**

- **If you (or your partner) are in receipt of Income Support or income based Job Seekers Allowance the limit is 6 months, or**
- **If you are claiming pension credit the limit is 3 months.**

We will need **proof of all your income and savings** from the **earliest date** that you want us to pay benefit from. We will also need the names, dates of birth, income and savings **of any other people who were living with you during the backdated period**. Where you have not supplied some of this information already, please give it at the time you return this form to us. We will write to you, before we decide if we can backdate your claim should we need to know anything else.

Social Security Commissioners have already decided that the reasons shown here are not good enough to justify backdating claims. Therefore, we will usually refuse to backdate your claim if your only reasons for not applying sooner are that:

- you thought that your illness or situation would not last very long
- you did not know about claiming benefit
- you thought that you would only be out of work for a short time
- you were careless and did not bother to make a claim
- you thought that you would not get any benefit even if you did claim.

Please fill in the rest of this form if you think that you have GOOD REASONS for not claiming benefit sooner.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:	Last Name:
Date of Birth:	First Names:
Current Address:	If you are claiming for a different address , please give us that address here:

(Please turn over)

Please tick which type of benefit you would like us to backdate.

Housing Benefit

Council Tax Benefit

Both Benefits

What date should we backdate your claim to?

What date should your benefit end on?

(please put CONTINUOUS if it shouldn't end)

Please tell us here why your benefit claim was late. You need to give good reasons why you think we should backdate it. Please give as much information that you think is relevant – we won't know if you don't tell us!

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information I have given on this form is true and complete. I give the Council permission to check any details if they wish to do so. I will tell Benefit Services at the Council, in writing and straight away, if any changes in circumstances happen that could affect the amount of benefit I should get.

Signature:

Full Name:

Date:

You should return the form to South Holland District Council, P.O.Box 8, Spalding, Lincs PE11 2XQ

How to get more information and advice

Please contact us as shown here if you would like any more information or advice. We will be pleased to help.



ring us on 01775 761161 and ask for Jacqui Fowler on extension 4519



write to us at South Holland District Council, PO Box 8, Spalding, Lincs PE11 2XQ



fax us on 01775 711253



email us at benefits@sholland.gov.uk



call in and see us at the Council Offices in Priory Road, Spalding.

BD1 (Aug 2008)