

Doctors Certificate for application of Council Tax Reduction (Severe Mental Impairment)

In respect of;

Name: _____

Address: _____

This certificate will help the council decide whether the person named above should be treated as severely mentally impaired. For the purpose of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 a person is severely mentally impaired if he or she has severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning, however caused, which appears to be permanent. By this we mean either an intellectual disability such as having a problem with reasoning, learning or problem solving or social functioning which could be difficulties dealing with relationships or activities related to independence.

Please tick the box next to the statement that matches your opinion most closely and then sign the certificate.

- YES** - In my opinion the applicant **is** severely mentally impaired for the purposes of council tax
Please state from which date _____
- NO** - In my opinion the applicant **is not** severely mentally impaired for the purposes of council tax

Medical practitioner's signature:			
Medical practitioner's full name:			
Medical practitioner's status (GP etc):		Date:	
Surgery or Hospital address:			

Surgery or Hospital official stamp

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

Q How is "Severely Mentally Impaired" defined?

A For the purpose of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 a person is severely mentally impaired if he or 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:

- (i) He or she is confirmed as being severely mentally impaired by a registered practitioner this includes people who have been diagnosed as suffering with severe and enduring mental health issues including Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia and strokes.

and

- (ii) He or she is entitled to one of the qualifying benefits

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 they may be entitled to it?

A If you would like more information about any benefits contact the Department for Work and Pensions (0345 712 3456) before applying for the discount.

Q How do I apply

A Fully complete this form and return to Revenues and Benefits, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH. Take the Doctors Certificate to the applicants Medical Practitioner for completion. Once both the completed form and the certificate have been received and assessed, you will be notified of the council's decision.

Q How long will the reduction be applied?

A For as long as there are less than two adults in the property who are not disregarded. If there is any change of circumstance you must notify the council immediately. Failure to do so may result in a penalty being imposed.