

Non-consensual Conception

Another situation where you are allowed Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for a third or later child, born after 6th April 2017, is if the child was **born as a result of rape** or conceived within a domestic abuse situation involving **coercion and control**.

This is a very difficult and sensitive issue. Please do not be offended if we need to ask about this to check your benefits.

Although you do not need to have taken legal action against the father of the child, the DWP will want **evidence from a professional person** that the child is likely to have been conceived as a result of rape.

If there has been a **conviction** or **compensation award** for rape, or for domestic coercion and control, this is good evidence that your relationship was abusive.

Even if a **third or later child**, born after April 2017, was conceived in a domestic abuse situation, you will **not be paid benefits** for that child if you are **still living with your abuser**. You will only get benefits for that child if you have **separated from your abusive partner**.



What if my child is Disabled?

You may get some additional benefit if a third or later child born after 6th April 2017 is disabled.

If you get **Disability Living Allowance** for a child, even if you do not get an extra child element for that child, you will be paid the **disabled child element** for Tax Credits or Universal Credit that applies to them.

Make sure you **tell the Tax Credits Office or Jobcentre** if you get DLA for your child.

Housing Benefit Changes

The **same rules** about which children you can claim CTC for also apply to Housing Benefit.

If you have more than two children but only get Tax Credits for the first two, your Housing Benefit is worked out as if you were a **two-child family**.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our **Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848**



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system www.snsCab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold
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The Two-Child Limit

Means-tested Benefits No. 4



What is the Two-Child Limit?

In April 2017, the way Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit and Universal Credit were worked out for larger families was changed.

If you already have two or more children, you will not usually get extra Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for another child born on or after **6th April 2017**.

Which Families are affected?

The two child limit applies to **larger families** with **children born after 6th April 2017**.

If you claim Tax Credits, Housing Benefit or Universal Credit, your family can be affected even if you are working.

If you have children born **before 6th April 2017**, your Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit claim will include them all.

However, you might still have your benefits cut by the **Benefit Cap**.

You can claim **Child Benefit** for **all your children**, whether they were born before or after April 6th 2017.



My child was born after 6th April 2017. Will I get benefits for her?

You can get extra Universal Credit (or Child Tax Credit, if you get Tax Credits already) for a baby born after 6th April 2017 if s/he is your **first or second child**.

Usually, you get **no extra benefit** for a **third or later child** born after that date but there are some **special situations** where you can get benefits for more children.

Example

Marcia has two children.

She earns £200 per week and also gets Tax Credits of about £183 per week and Child Benefit.

She is expecting a baby soon. When this child is born, Marcia will be able to claim another £15.90 Child Benefit but **no additional Tax Credits** or Housing Benefit.

What if I have twins or triplets?

You might get extra CTC or UC if you have a multiple birth.

The DWP accept that, while you might have budgeted for one additional child for which you wouldn't get benefits, you probably did not predict the birth of twins, triplets or more.

They therefore allow benefits for the second twin or other additional children.

More about Multiple Births

If you already have one child, then have twins, you get child elements for **all three children**.

For example, if you have a 5 year old, a 3 year old already and then have twins, your benefits will include a child element each for the two older children and for **one of the twins**.

If you have two or more children, then have triplets, you get child elements for **two of the triplets**.

What if I adopt a child?

There are special rules on **adoption and fostering**. Unless the child is your step-child, you **can claim for a child you have adopted**, even if that child was born after 6th April 2017 and takes the number of children in your family to three or more.

If you are looking after a child for a friend or family member, through an **informal agreement**, perhaps because the parent is in hospital or prison, you may be able to claim Tax Credits or Universal Credit for him/her, even if you already claim for two or more children.

You will need **proof from a Social Worker** that the Council are aware of this arrangement.

