

# Guide to Health Charges



INCLUSION IRELAND





INCLUSION IRELAND

National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

## WHO IS INCLUSION IRELAND?

Inclusion Ireland is a national organisation working to promote the rights of people with an intellectual disability in Ireland.



Inclusion Ireland wants people with an intellectual disability to live in their community and to be a part of their community.

## WHAT DOES INCLUSION IRELAND WANT?



Inclusion Ireland wants people with an intellectual disability to have equal rights.



Inclusion Ireland wants people with an intellectual disability to live the life of their choice.



Inclusion Ireland wants people with an intellectual disability to have their voices heard.

## INTRODUCTION



Inclusion Ireland has been contacted by many individuals who live in residential services and their families who have questions about the money being charged.



These charges are called “long stay charges” or “health charges”.

There is a bigger guide to the charges.

This easy to read guide tells you all about the charges.

If you have more questions about the charges you can contact us.



**Phone** 01 855 98 91

**Fax** 01 855 99 04



**Email**  
[info@inclusionireland.ie](mailto:info@inclusionireland.ie)

**Website**  
[www.inclusionireland.ie](http://www.inclusionireland.ie)



**Address** Unit C2,  
The  
Steelworks,  
Foley St.  
Dublin 1

## BACKGROUND

For many years people living in residential service had to pay to live there.

People only had to pay if they had money.

Some people did not have to pay because they did not have any money or only received a small payment of €35 a week.

In 2007 all people in residential service got the Disability Allowance.

Everybody who is in a residential service should get a Disability Allowance.



## CHARGES

Since the 1970s many people paid money to live in a residential service.

In 2004 the Court decided that this was against the law.

The court also said that all the money should be paid back.

In 2005 a new law was brought in.

The new law said that people who lived in residential services had to pay a health charge.

People in residential services have had to pay this health charge since 2007.





## CHARGES

There are 2 types of Health Charge.

Class 1 is where there is a nurse in the building 24 hours a day.

Class 2 is where there is a nurse in the building for less than 24 hours a day.

## HOW MUCH ARE THE CHARGES?

Class 1 health charges are €153.25 every week.

Class 2 health charges are €114.95 every week.

These are the most you should have to pay.



## PAYING THE CHARGE

The health charge is paid to the service provider



The charge can be taken out of the Disability Allowance every week or paid directly into a bank account.

Every person should have their charge decided separately.



A person's charge may be smaller if they have expenses such as sports, holidays, savings or health insurance.

## APPEALING THE CHARGE



An individual or their advocate can ask for the charge to be lowered or taken away altogether.

A charge will only be lowered or taken away if it is clear that the person can not afford to pay.



An individual may have costs such as;

- Children
- Medical costs
- Life Assurance
- Rent or Mortgage
- Loans
- Travel



Or other costs

## PROBLEMS WITH THE CHARGES



The charges are large and people are left with little money to spend.

The charges are the same for everyone no matter how much care a person needs.

People who live outside the service may still need to pay a charge.

People have no say in how the money is spent.

Information about the charges can be hard to get.



## WHAT DOES INCLUSION IRELAND THINK?

Inclusion Ireland thinks;

People should pay for their living costs but that this should be fair.

Each person should have their charge decided separately.

Everybody should have a clear plan for how their money is spent.

Information should be easy to understand.

Everybody should know that they can appeal and be helped to appeal if they need it.

The service should not decide how much the charge is. It should be decided by someone outside the service.



## WHAT DO THE STANDARDS SAY ABOUT THE CHARGES?



The Health Information and Quality Authority have produced Standards for how people in residential services should be treated.

The Standards say that everybody should;

Have control over their own money.



Have access to their own money and spend it how they want to.

Have help and advice about their money.

Have a clear explanation of charges they have to pay.

Have a clear record of any charges they have to pay.



## USEFUL LINKS

You can get all of this information in the post by calling Inclusion Ireland on 01 855 98 91

### **HSE information page on charges:**

[http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find\\_a\\_Service/Older\\_People\\_Services/Residential\\_Care/Long\\_Stay\\_Charges/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find_a_Service/Older_People_Services/Residential_Care/Long_Stay_Charges/)

### **HSE National Guidelines for charges:**

[http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find\\_a\\_Service/Older\\_People\\_Services/Residential\\_Care/Long\\_Stay\\_Charges/longstaychargesjan2009.pdf](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find_a_Service/Older_People_Services/Residential_Care/Long_Stay_Charges/longstaychargesjan2009.pdf)

### **HIQA National Quality Standards: Residential Services for People with Disabilities**

[http://www.hiqa.ie/media/pdfs/National\\_Quality\\_Standards\\_Residential\\_Services\\_People\\_with\\_Disabilities\\_easy\\_to\\_read.pdf](http://www.hiqa.ie/media/pdfs/National_Quality_Standards_Residential_Services_People_with_Disabilities_easy_to_read.pdf)

### **Inclusion Ireland 'Health Charges'**

[www.inclusionireland.ie/topics\\_healthcharges.asp](http://www.inclusionireland.ie/topics_healthcharges.asp)

This page is information about a programme being run in Europe.

This programme paid for this booklet.

The programme runs for 7 years and looks at employment and social laws.

There is more text on the next page all about the project.

The information on the next page appears in this easy to read booklet and the bigger document.

The text on the next page is not Easy to Read.

This publication is supported by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission.

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The seven-year programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies across the EU-27, EFTA–EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and the society at large.

For more information see:

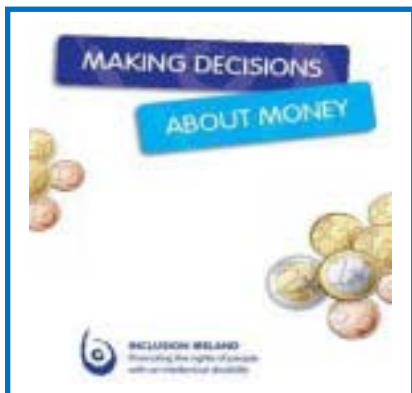
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/progress](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress)



The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.



## More Information About Money



Making Decisions About Money is a booklet from Inclusion Ireland.

Inclusion Ireland also has a website for information about money and voting

[www.choices.inclusionireland.ie](http://www.choices.inclusionireland.ie)

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[www.inclusion-europe.org/etr](http://www.inclusion-europe.org/etr)

This document has been proof-read by  
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