

New benefits rules – child maintenance payments ignored from April 2010

From 12th April, child maintenance payments will no longer be treated as income when working out if you are entitled to means tested benefits such as income support, income based job seekers allowance or income related Employment and Support Allowance. These payments are already ignored as income for housing and council tax benefit and for tax credits.

If you receive child maintenance payments and were told in the past that your income was too high to receive a means tested benefit, you may find that these new rules allow you to qualify for the first time. To find out whether this applies to you seek further advice. If you care for a child with a disability or illness you can get detailed advice from the Contact a Family Helpline on 0808 808 3555.