



Council tax joint accounts Council Tax factsheet 5

Disclaimer

The following factsheet contains basic information about council tax and is for guidance only. If you require more comprehensive advice please contact us.

Why have we been sent a bill in all our names?

When or if;

- One or more persons own a property.
- When one or more persons sign a joint tenancy agreement.
- They may become jointly and severally liable for the Council Tax due.

Why do we keep getting bills with different account numbers?

As Council Tax is a daily charge, whenever owner(s) or tenant(s) move in or out of a dwelling, a new account must be created for the period in question, naming only those that are liable for this period.

Why can't I just pay my portion?

If you have taken out a joint tenancy agreement, for example with one other person, this does not mean you are only responsible for half of the Council Tax due.

As far as the legislation governing Council Tax is concerned, all the named tenants are equally liable for the full amount due. In the case of non-payment we can choose to pursue anyone named or all of those named for all or part of the unpaid debt.

My landlord agreed to pay the Council Tax, so why do we have to pay?

Council Tax is normally the responsibility of the occupiers. It should not therefore be included in your rent or paid direct to your Landlord, without the agreement of this Office.

You should always check with this office about the payment of Council Tax, before signing a tenancy agreement that says this; a Landlord should only ask you to make payments towards the Council Tax due (including this in your tenancy agreement), when this Council Tax Office has designated the Owner/Landlord as Liable for the Council Tax due (rather than the occupying tenants).

When would you agree to make the Owner/landlord pay?

When we are certain that either:

- Individual tenancy agreements or rental obligations exist, for all the tenants of the dwelling (there is no obligation for you to pay rent on the property as a whole if one tenant leaves).
- The landlord has placed locks on some internal doors (for example bedrooms), preventing you from occupying or using every room in the dwelling.

If you feel that one of the above describes your dwelling, please contact this office immediately.

Further contact details

If you have access to email you can contact us with your enquiry at counciltax@bristol.gov.uk.

You can also access information and download forms by simply clicking onto our website www.bristol.gov.uk.

Our office at Phoenix Court (next to Cabot Circus) is open for personal enquiries from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Wednesdays.

This information is available in Braille, on audiotape or in other languages. To obtain the version you want:

Phone: 0117 925 0981

Minicom: 0117 975 5785

Email: counciltax@bristol.gov.uk.