

# Establishing the Permanent Dependency of an Incapacitated Child



Children incapable of self-support who become incapacitated prior to the age of 21 (or between 21 and 23 if enrolled as a full-time student) can remain in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and receive continued military benefits and privileges.

## Determining eligibility

For an adult child to be considered eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Unmarried
- Incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that existed before the 21st birthday (or 23rd if enrolled as a full-time student)
- Dependent on the sponsor for more than 50 percent of his or her support — or was at the time of the sponsor's death

## ID card renewal

An incapacitated child over the age of 21 will require a dependency determination from a uniformed service approval agency each time an ID card is issued. Include the evaluation in the medical sufficiency statement when applying for the renewed ID card.

Your installation's Exceptional Family Member Program office can help provide support in the application and renewal process.

## Required documentation

Documentation requirements vary between services, but the following is generally required to verify eligibility for establishing permanent dependency of an incapacitated child:

- A birth certificate, if not already enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System
- A parent's marriage certificate, if not already enrolled in the system
- A current physician's statement dated within 90 days of application
- A letter from the school registrar reflecting enrollment as a full-time student in an accredited institution of higher learning when the incapacitation occurred (if applicable)



<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>

Exceptional Family Member Program support is available for military families with special needs.

For more information, please contact your installation EFMP office or visit

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>, an official Department of Defense website.