

# ESTABLISHING THE SECONDARY DEPENDENCY OF AN ADULT FAMILY MEMBER

Family members incapable of self-support who become incapacitated after the age of 21 can remain in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and receive continued military benefits and privileges.

## Secondary dependents

Secondary, or nonprimary, dependents can include:

- Parent, parent-in-law, stepparent, parent by adoption or 'in-loco parentis' (in the place of a parent)
- Unmarried children ages 21 and 22 who are enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education on a full-time basis.
- Ward of the court, unmarried and placed in the permanent legal physical custody of the member
- Unmarried child over age 21 incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that occurred while the child was considered a dependent

## Qualifications

To qualify as a secondary dependent:

- The individual's income, not including service member contribution, must be less than one-half of the actual living expenses.
- The individual must be 'in fact' dependent on the service member.
- The service member's contribution must be more than one-half of the dependent's actual monthly living expenses.
- The service member must provide documentation of the dependent's living expenses and the service member's contribution.



## Quick tips

- Be sure to review instructions and required documents for Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and secondary dependency applications.
- Send your initial application or redetermination package to the correct Defense Finance Accounting Service office.

## For more information

- Get answers about secondary dependency from your personnel or finance office.
- Find program details, service instructions and more at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, [www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/SecondaryDependency/SDC.html](http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/SecondaryDependency/SDC.html).



For additional assistance, including specialty consultations, planning tools, non-medical counseling and more, call or visit <https://www.militaryonesource.mil> | 800-342-9647



**EFMP** Exceptional Family Member Program