

HOW TO MAKE A RELATIVE A MILITARY DEPENDENT

Military Dependents

Certain family members, such as a spouse or child, are automatically entitled to dependency status. Under certain conditions, other family members, known as secondary (non-primary) dependents, may also qualify for dependency status. This qualification requires an initial dependency determination made by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

Secondary Dependency

Secondary dependents may include:

- Parent, parent-in-law, step-parent, parent by adoption, or any person who stood “in-loco parentis” to you for at least five years prior to your emancipation.
- 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, or if not permanent custody for a period of at least 12 consecutive months.
- Unmarried child over 21 incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity that occurred while the child was considered a dependent of yours as a member or retired member or is considered the dependent of a deceased member (while under age 21 or under age 23 and a full-time student).

Preparing and submitting applications to have eligible person included as your secondary dependent can ensure you receive the benefits and allowances you and your dependent are entitled to.

Service-Specific Information for Applying for or Maintaining Secondary Dependency Status

For branch specific secondary dependency applications: documents, forms and hints visit the applicable website listed below:

- **Air Force:**
http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/secondarydependency/secondarydependency_AirForce.html
- **Army:**
http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/secondarydependency/secondarydependency_Army.html
- **Marine Corps:**
http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/secondarydependency/secondarydependency_Marines.html
- **Navy:**
http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/secondarydependency/secondarydependency_Navy.html

Legal Assistance Can Help

If you have questions concerning this matter, please call the Presidio of Monterey Legal Assistance Office to schedule an appointment. Our office numbers are: (831) 242-5084/5083.