



U.S. ARMY OKINAWA

★ TORII STATION ★



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

• 652-4332 / 4742 • BUILDING 218, ROOM 220 •

HOW TO MAKE A RELATIVE A MILITARY DEPENDENT

Adapted from an article by the Presidio of Monterey Legal Assistance Office

Who can qualify as a military dependent?

Certain family members, such as a spouse or child under 21, are automatically entitled to dependency status; a service member need to complete [DD Form 1172-2](#) and provide the necessary proof. Other family members, such as parents, siblings, and adult children who are full-time students or incapacitated require an initial dependency determination by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) prior to registration in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) as a family member or dependent.

How can I make my minor sister, nephew, cousin, or foster child a dependent?

To seek dependent status for a minor child for whom you have legal custody or guardianship, you must submit the child's birth certificate, [DD Forms 137-7](#) and [1172-2](#), and the original or certified copies of the guardianship or other relevant court documents to DFAS.

How can I make my adult incapacitated or full-time student child a dependent?

To seek dependent status of an incapacitated child over the age of 21, the service member must submit a qualifying medical sufficiency statement and [DD Forms 137-5](#) and [1172-2](#). To seek dependent status for a full-time student aged 21 or 22, the service member must submit [DD Forms 137-6](#) and [1172-2](#).

How can I make my parent a dependent?

To seek dependent status for an adult family member, such as a father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, stepparent, or someone *in loco parentis*, DFAS will apply a financial test to determine whether the family member receives over half of his/her income from the service member. You must submit the Servicemember's or spouse's birth certificate and proof of the relationship, [DD Forms 137-3](#) and [1172-2](#) to show financial dependency, and proof of the family member's identity to DFAS. For someone *in loco parentis*, this will include affidavits that that person stood in a parental capacity for at least five years prior to the service member (or spouse's) 21st birthday.

If I have other questions, what should I do?

Please contact the Soldier Family Legal Services' Office on Torii Station at 652-4332.