

Dependent eligibility

Who is an eligible dependent?

Your dependent can be enrolled in a plan only if they are an eligible dependent. If both you and your spouse work for the same employer, your dependents can be covered by only one of you.

Eligible spouse

- Your lawful spouse (you must have a valid certificate of marriage considered lawful in the State of Texas or a signed and filed legal Declaration of Informal Marriage considered lawful in the State of Texas)
- A surviving spouse of a deceased retiree, if the spouse was covered at the time of the retiree's death

Eligible child(ren)

- Your natural child under age 26
- Your natural, mentally or physically disabled child, if the child has reached age 26 and is dependent upon you for more than one-half of their support as defined by the Internal Revenue Code. To be eligible, the disability must occur before or within 31 days of the child's 26th birthday.
- Your legally adopted child, including a child who is living with you who has been placed for adoption or for whom legal adoption proceedings have been started, or a child for whom you are named Permanent Managing Conservator

Managing conservator

- Your stepchild (natural or adopted child of current spouse)
- Your unmarried grandchild (child of your child) under age 26 who, at the time of enrollment, is your dependent for federal income tax purposes, without regard to income limitations
- A child for whom you are required to provide coverage by court order
- A surviving, eligible child of a deceased retiree, only if the child was covered as a dependent at the time of the retiree's death

Dependent verification

Valid proof of dependent eligibility is required before you can add a new dependent or spouse to the plan. Check with your Human Resources department for more information.

Who is *not* an eligible dependent?

Enrollment of an ineligible dependent can be considered fraud and subject you to penalties, including termination of employment, financial risk and criminal prosecution. Anyone eligible as an employee is not eligible as a dependent.

Ineligible spouse

- Your divorced spouse, or a person to whom you are not lawfully married, such as your significant other
- A surviving spouse who was not covered by the deceased retiree at the time of the retiree's death

Ineligible child(ren)

- Your natural, age-26-or-older child who is not disabled or whose disability occurred after the 26th birthday
- A child for whom your parental rights have been terminated
- A child living temporarily with you, including a foster child who is living temporarily with you or a child placed with you in your home by a social service agency, or a child whose natural parent is in a position to exercise or share parental responsibility or control
- Your current spouse's stepchild or the stepchild of a former spouse
- A surviving child of a deceased retiree who was not covered as a dependent at the time of the retiree's death
- A sibling, another family member or an individual not specifically listed by the plan as an eligible dependent

When a child's coverage ends

You may cover your child (natural child, stepchild, adopted child) in a medical, dental and/or vision plan until the last day of the month in which the child turns age 26, whether or not the child is a student, working, living with you and regardless of the child's marital status. This coverage does not extend to your child's spouse or their children. Your grandchild is eligible only if the grandchild is unmarried and your dependent for federal income tax purposes. You must provide your Form 1040 to prove grandchild dependent status.