



FORT SILL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

SECONDARY DEPENDENCY

FACT SHEET



SUBJECT: Establishing Dependency for Access to DEERs/I.D. Cards

1. What is Dependency?

To be considered dependent, the service member's contributions must exceed 50% of the claimed dependent's expenses. The dependency determination is made by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

2. Who is Eligible to be a Dependent?

Parents, parents-in-law, stepparent, parent by adoption, or anyone who acted as a parent to the service member for a continuous period of at least 5 years before the service member became 21. Any child under the age of 21, or full time college student under the age of 23. Any ward of a court who is unmarried and placed in the legal and physical custody of a service member for at least 12 consecutive months. **** A service member who obtains legal guardianship of a child must ensure that the court order specifically states that guardianship is for at least 12 consecutive months. If the custody order states the guardianship will be for less than 12 months, or more likely, the court order does not state the specific amount of time the service member will be the guardian, the dependant will not be enrolled as a secondary dependant.**

3. How do I establish Dependency?

Complete a Dependency Determination Packet (DDP), which consists of the applicable DD Form 137-X and DD Form 1172. You can pick up a DPP at the ID Cards office in Building 4700, or these forms may be found at: <http://www.dod.mil/dfas/library/> by following the link to *Department of Defense Forms*. Answer all questions, and obtain the requested documents. Then mail or fax the packet to:

DFAS-Indianapolis/Code JMTCB

8899 East 56th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46249-0865

FAX: (317) 275-0282

However, if you have went to court and obtained an adoption, or legal custody of a ward for at least 12 consecutive months, you do not need to mail in a DPP.

Updated February 2014

If you have questions concerning the information in this fact sheet, please call the Legal Assistance Office (580) 442-5058 or (580) 442-5059. Our hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 0900 – 1600, and Thursdays 1300-1600. The Fort Sill Legal Assistance Office is located on the 4th floor of Building 4700, Welcome Center on Mow-Way Road.

