



Dependent Eligibility Definitions and Required Documents

Are you enrolling a spouse, domestic partner or child in health care or dental coverage?

If so, the County of Orange requires that you provide the documents described below.

Spouse

Eligibility Definition

Individual to whom you are legally married

Required Documents

If married less than six months:

- Marriage certificate

If married more than six months:

- Marriage certificate, and
- Federal tax return issued within last year listing spouse, or proof of joint financial arrangement issued within last six months such as joint bank account, joint loan or billings in both names at the same address (black out all financial information)

Domestic Partner

Eligibility Definition

Opposite-sex or same-sex individual to whom you are legally registered as a domestic partner

Required Documents

If partnership was registered less than six months ago:

- Certificate of domestic partnership registration

If partnership was registered more than six months ago:

- Certificate of domestic partnership registration, and
- State tax return issued within last year listing partner, or proof of joint financial arrangement issued within last six months such as joint bank account, joint loan or billings in both names at the same address (black out all financial information)

You are not required to obtain a certificate of domestic partnership from your current place of residence. You may obtain a government-issued certificate from any municipality, county or state that issues one.

Children: Medical Coverage

Eligibility Definition

Children under age 26, including:

- Stepchildren
- Foster children
- Children placed for adoption
- Legally adopted children
- Children of a domestic partner

Children age 26 or over who are:

- Medically certified as disabled, and
- Financially supported by you and/or your spouse/domestic partner

“Children” does not include any legally married spouse or domestic partner, or children of your dependent child (i.e., your grandchildren).

Required Documents

Biological children:

- Birth certificate

Stepchildren:

- Birth certificate, and
- Parents’ marriage certificate (if married less than six months) OR parents’ marriage certificate plus federal tax return or other proof of joint financial arrangement (if married more than six months)¹

Children of a domestic partner:

- Birth certificate, and
- Parents’ certificate of domestic partnership registration (if partnership registered less than six months ago) OR certificate of domestic partnership registration plus state tax return or other proof of joint financial arrangement (if partnership registered more than six months ago)¹

Children for whom you have legal guardianship, adopted children or foster children:

- Government-issued legal document proving relationship such as: adoption certificate, final court order, adoption decree with judge’s signature and seal, court-ordered adoption placement agreement, court-ordered document of legal guardianship, or foster care placement letter
- Document must include child’s name, child’s date of birth and your name.

For disabled children, also include:²

- Front page of federal tax return issued within last year claiming the disabled child as a dependent (black out financial information), and
- Indicate if the child has a Social Security disability award or if one is pending

Children: Dental Coverage (if available)

Eligibility Definition

Unmarried children under age 19, including:

- Stepchildren
- Foster children
- Children placed for adoption
- Legally adopted children
- Children of a domestic partner who are legally dependent on you for support and live in the plan’s service area, unless coverage is court-ordered

Unmarried children between ages 19 and 24 who are:

- Full-time students taking at least 12 credits a semester (trade schools require the student to have 180 hours annually to be considered full-time)
- Fully registered at an accredited college or secondary school in or outside the plan’s coverage area, and
- Dependent on you for financial support

Children age 19 or over who are:

- Medically certified as disabled, and
- Financially supported by you and/or your spouse/domestic partner

“Children” does not include any legally married spouse or domestic partner, or children of your dependent child (i.e., your grandchildren).

Required Documents

See required documents for medical coverage for documentation required for:

- Biological children
- Stepchildren
- Children of a domestic partner
- Children for whom you have legal guardianship, adopted children or foster children
- Disabled children

In addition to the above, for dental coverage, if the child is between ages 19 and 24 and is not medically certified as disabled, you must also submit proof of full-time student enrollment every year.

Standard documents accepted as proof of full-time student enrollment include registrar letter, transcript (official or unofficial), student schedule and National Student Clearinghouse letter. Alternate forms of proof include tuition/billing statement and copy of cashed check payable to the school for the upcoming semester. Document must include the student’s name, school name and proof of full-time enrollment for the current or upcoming semester/quarter (i.e., total credits being taken).

¹See requirements above for Spouse or Domestic Partner for more information related to tax returns or other proof of joint financial arrangement.

²These documents only verify the disabled child’s eligibility as a dependent. Your health plan determines the disability status of the child.