

CHAPTER 9
SECTION 1.1A

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPENDENT SPOUSE

Issue Date: September 9, 1993

Authority: [32 CFR 199.3](#) and Title 10 U.S.C., Chapter 55

I. ISSUE

When are individuals eligible to qualify as dependent spouses?

II. BACKGROUND

This section incorporates the spouse eligibility requirements from [32 CFR 199.3](#), and Title 10 U.S.C., Chapter 55.

III. POLICY

A. A spouse is a lawful husband or wife of a member (i.e., active duty member), or former member (i.e., retiree, deceased member, deceased retiree, certain deceased reservists (see [Chapter 9, Section 10.1C](#))). Other individuals who fall into the one of the following classes may also qualify for benefits as a dependent spouse:

1. Former spouse (see [Chapter 9, Section 1.1B](#) for specific requirements necessary to qualify as a former spouse).

2. Abused spouse (see [Chapter 9, Section 10.1B](#) for specific requirements necessary to qualify as an abused spouse).

B. The spouse of a deceased member or retiree, including certain former spouses, must not be remarried, unless the remarriage is annulled. An annulment restores unmarried status.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. For circumstances which may result in a dependent spouse losing eligibility see [Chapter 9, Section 12.1](#).

B. The contractor is responsible for verification of TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility in accord with [OPM Part Two, Chapter 1, Section IV.C](#).

C. The contractor is also responsible for any additional or distinctive TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility verification procedures related to a specific class of spouse outlined in other sections of this Chapter.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

A. Beginning dates of eligibility depend on the class to which the spouse belongs and the date the spouse became a member of the class. Individuals who become eligible after the eligibility date of their class attain eligibility on the date they become a member of the class.

B. Beginning dates of eligibility for each class (excluding eligible spouses of certain deceased reservists and spouses who are victims of abuse), are as follows:

1. A spouse of a member for:
 - a. Medical benefits authorized by the Dependents' Medical Care Act of 1956 (reference (a)), December 7, 1956;
 - b. Outpatient medical benefits under the Basic Program, October 1, 1966;
 - c. Inpatient medical benefits under the Basic Program and benefits under the Program for Persons with Disabilities (formerly known as Program for the Handicapped), January 1, 1967;
2. A spouse of a former member:
 - a. For medical benefits under the Basic Program, January 1, 1967.
 - b. Ineligible for benefits under the Program for Persons with Disabilities.
3. An abused spouse (see [Chapter 9, Section 10.1B](#) for beginning dates of eligibility and entitlements).
4. A spouse of certain deceased reservists (see [Chapter 9, Section 10.1C](#) for beginning dates of eligibility and entitlements).
5. Former spouses (see [Chapter 9, Section 1.1B](#) for requirements related to dates of eligibility).

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