

FACT SHEET: CHILD(REN)

A child can be:

- A biological child
- An adopted child
- A stepchild (must be a member of the veteran's household)

Marital Status of a Child

A child must be unmarried to be a dependent (Note: if previously married, the marriage must have been terminated prior to 11-1-90).

Age requirements

A child must:

be under the age of 18 **OR**
be between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending an approved school full-time **OR**
have become permanently incapable of self-support before reaching the age of 18
(called "helpless child")

Evidence Needed to Establish a Child

Will consist of one of the following:

Primary Evidence

- A birth certificate showing the name of the mother (for a female veteran) **or**
- A birth certificate showing the names of both parents (for a male veteran) **or**
- An official report from the service department showing a birth while the veteran was in service

Secondary Evidence

- A copy of the church record of baptism **or**
- A written acknowledgment signed by the veteran stating the child is his/hers **or**
- A judicial decree ordering the veteran to contribute to the child's support **or**
- Copy of adoption decree or copy of the adoptive placement agreement **or**
- Copy of revised birth certificate showing the veteran as parent.