

Dependents: Credits and Deductions for your Offspring and Others who Rely on you for Financial Support

Although there are no longer “exemptions” for dependents, there are still credits. Because these credits can be large, the IRS requires us to use “due diligence” in determining your eligibility. The penalties (for you, your preparer and our firm) are large if we don’t. Please be patient with the questions we ask and the documents we request*. We want to make sure you get every penny you are entitled to; no more and no less.

Thank you.

Consider that the following might be your dependent: *Your parent, your unmarried partner, your brother-in-law sleeping in the basement, a foster child, your adult offspring still struggling to support themselves.* For each person who might be your dependent, please give us the following information—use more sheets if necessary.

Dependent Details (If you have not claimed the person recently, we need a copy of their SS Card and their date of birth.)

Name(s): _____ Relationship to you: _____

(If the answers to these questions are the same for more than one child, you can list them here and not fill out separate pages for each.)

Have you agreed to or been court ordered to let someone else claim the child*? Yes ___ No ___

Did the child live with any other adults during the year such as grandparents? Yes ___ No ___

Do you have a document that shows the child shares your address? ***Please give us a copy. NEW FOR 2020.**

- Possible documents include the child’s report card, passport, learner’s permit or driver’s license, school or childcare records, medical records, home school curricular correspondence

Have you ever been turned down for credits related to your income and children or had those credits reduced? (You would have received a letter from the IRS.) Yes ___ No ___ I don’t know ___

If the child is 19 or older (at the end of 2020),

Are they a full-time student? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please fill out the College Credits section.

Are they disabled? Yes ___ No ___

How much income did they have in 2020? _____ (include wages and investments)

If you are filing jointly with the other parent, you can skip the rest of this page.

If you are NOT filing jointly with the other parent, where do they live? _____

Is there a court order concerning custody and visitation? Yes ___ No ___

Might the other parent claim the child? Yes ___ No ___ If not, why not? _____

How long did the child live in your home during 2020? _____ (number of overnights)

How long did the child live in the other parent’s home during 2020? _____ (number of overnights)

(If the child spends close to half the nights with each parent, it is essential that good records are kept)

Do any other adults live in your home? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, who? _____ What is their relationship to you? _____

Do you pay for more than half of the costs of maintaining your household? Yes ___ No ___

If others (relatives or friends) help you pay your household expenses, about how much do they pay?

25% or less? ___ About half? ___ More than half? ___

Dependent Care Credits (available even if you claim the standard deduction)

If a child is 12 or younger or disabled,

Do you pay for child (or adult) day care? Yes ___ No ___ If yes please give us the following information—for each provider. (If you get year-end summaries from the provider, you can just give us copies.)

Name of provider

Tax ID (Social Security number or business ID)

Amount paid PER child

Information is attached or

I am working on getting it or

I don't pay for day care

Reminder: Recreation programs and day camps count, as long as parents are either working or in school. Sleepover camp does not count.

College Credits (these can be worth as much as \$2,500 and are available if you claim the standard deduction)

Name of Student _____

Has the student been convicted of a felony involving drugs? Yes ___ No ___

Is the student working on a degree or a certification? Yes ___ No ___

Did or will the student file a tax return? Yes ___ No ___ (If yes, we need a copy.)

If the student is not filing a tax return, approximately how much income did the child have? \$ _____

If we have been doing your taxes for less than 3 years, have you gotten college credits in the past?

Yes ___ No ___ I don't know ___

How much did you or the student spend for required books, equipment or supplies? _____

Do you have receipts? Yes No

We **MUST HAVE** the student's **1098T for 2020** and an **account (bursar's) statement** showing the **dates payments were made**. The student can download this information from their on-line account. Sometimes in the final year, the student will not get a 1098T because all payments were made in the prior year. If this is the case for your student, let us know and we will figure out if you can still claim the credit.

Check this box if the **school says there is no 1098T for this year**.

Determining who is a dependent can be complicated. We will do this for you. But, for your information, here are the rules:

For a child:

- The child has to have lived with you for at least half of the year (183 overnights).
- The child has to be related to you as a son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of those.
- The child must be 18 or younger at the end of the year, or under 24 if a student. To be a student, the child must have attended school full-time during at least five months of the year. The five months don't have to be in a row.
- The child must be younger than you (or your spouse, if married filing jointly), unless the child is disabled.

For an adult:

- The person cannot have a gross yearly income over \$4,300. (That is the amount for 2020 returns – it usually changes each year) (This DOES NOT include Social Security if that is the person's only income.)
- The person can't be qualifying child dependent of you and another person. That means you can't claim the person if someone else could.
- The person must be either related to you or must have lived with you all year as a member of your household.