



Ohio Unemployment Program Policy

Dependency Status

Effective: 6/16/2025

Purpose

Provide guidance to OUIO staff adjudicating dependency status issues.

Reference

[Section 4141.30 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#) (E)

[Section 4141.29 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

Background

Ohio law requires that each eligible claimant be assigned one of the dependency classes listed below in order to establish a claimant’s weekly benefit amount (WBA).

Class	Description of Dependents
A	No dependents, or has insufficient wages to qualify for more than the maximum weekly benefit amount as provided under dependency class A
B	One or two dependents
C	Three or more dependents

A claimant’s WBA is calculated to be 50% of their average weekly wage during their assigned base period, however a claimant’s Dependency Class establishes the maximum WBA for a claimant, regardless of their average weekly wages. These maximums are adjusted yearly, based on the statewide average weekly wage.

A claimant may appeal his/her assigned dependency class anytime within the initial 21-day appeal period. Once the determination becomes final, no dependents can be added. Conversely, no dependents will be taken away from the claim during that benefit year due to such occurrences as divorce, death, or a child reaching age 18.

Definitions

Dependent Spouse is a spouse, living with the claimant, for whom they have personally provided more than 50% of the spouse’s support in the 90 days prior to the effective date of the claim.

Additionally, the spouse’s income for the 90-day period must be 25% or less than the claimant’s

average weekly wage. If they have been married less than 90 days, the conditions must be met since the time of marriage.

Dependent Child is a child, stepchild, or adopted child 17 years old or under as of the BYB of the claim for which the claimant has personally provided 50% of their support during the 90 days prior to the effective date of the claim. If 18 or older, however, a child may be a dependent if they have a permanent physical or mental handicap that prevents them from working. If the parental relationship has existed for less than 90 days, the conditions must be met since the time the relationship began.

Legal Requirements

Ohio Revised Code Section 4141.30(E) provides the requirements that must be met for individuals to be considered a dependent spouse or child. If any of the requirements are not met, the individual does not qualify as a dependent.

Dependent Spouse Requirements

- Claimant and the spouse must be legally married.
- Claimant must have provided more than 50% of support of the spouse for at least ninety consecutive days or for the duration of the marriage if it has existed for less than ninety days.
- Claimant must be living with the spouse.
- Income of the spouse must not exceed one-fourth of the claimant's base period average weekly wage.

Dependent Child Requirements

- Child, stepchild, or adopted child
- Age of the child
- Primary support of the child

Dependent Identity Verification

Ohio law requires that a claimant provide the Social Security numbers of any individuals claimed as dependents, including both spouse and children. Accordingly, any child listed as a dependent on an application for unemployment benefits is required to have a Social Security number in order to be allowed as a dependent.

If a claimant does not wish to claim a spouse as a dependent, but does wish to claim at least one child, the following "Independent Spouse" information must be requested even if he/she is not claiming the spouse as a dependent. The purpose is to ensure that husband and wife don't have overlapping claims with both having a dependency class other than A.

If the Social Security numbers cannot be verified automatically during the initial claim verification process, claimants are required to provide documentation.

Fact Finding Requirements

Dependency information can be collected in two ways. When a claimant files an initial claim using the self-service format, the individual will complete any applicable dependency information as he/she navigates through the appropriate screens.

If the initial claim is being filed by telephone all applicable dependency screens must be completed by OUIO staff.

Review and Updates

This policy will be subject to periodic review to ensure alignment with state and federal updates and organizational requirements. Any necessary amendments will be communicated accordingly.

Change Log

Published Date	Status (Baseline, Revision, Deletion)	Document Version	Page(s) Affected	Description of Revision	Author
4/14/2025	Baseline	Vs.1	NA	Draft	ABW

Questions?

If you have questions, please call 1-877-644-6562 or complete either the Employer Inquiry or Claimant Inquiry form on our website at [Contact Us](#).