



Medical Sufficiency Statement Extract From AFI 41-115 28 DECEMBER 2001

1.13. Dependency Determinations for Incapacitated Children. AFI 36-3026(I), Identification Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Family Members and Other Eligible Personnel, reflects initial eligibility criteria and processing procedures for a sponsor to apply for continued benefits for an incapacitated child who would no longer be eligible for benefits at age 21 (or 23 if enrolled as a full-time student when the incapacitation occurred). The Military Personnel Flight and Base Accounting and Finance Office review documentation to determine if initial eligibility criteria is met for further processing to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Denver Center (DFAS-DE) who has approval authority.

1.13.1. A statement from an attending physician and an accompanying medical sufficiency statement from a MTF commander is required to determine initial eligibility and for inclusion in the application package.

1.13.2. In order to establish medical incapacity, the patient's illness must be substantial and truly disabling. In addition, the medical incapacity must occur before the individual's 21st birthday (or 23rd birthday if enrolled as a full-time student when incapacitation occurred). The Air Force doesn't consider a diagnosis of alcoholism/or drug abuse as an incapacitating illness for the purposes of dependency determinations. Future medical expenditures and a medical condition that will worsen don't justify a determination of medical incapacity.

1.13.3. The MTF provider should provide this information in the recommendation:

1.13.3.1. Diagnosis (use medical and layperson's terms).

1.13.3.2. Summary of the individual's incapacitation, including the nature and extent of the illness or disease. Non-medical personnel must be able to understand this summary.

1.13.3.3. Explain how the incapacity affects the individual's ability to perform routine life activities (working, attending school, driving a car, and so on).

1.13.3.4. Age when the incapacitation began (may not be the same as when medical personnel diagnosed the illness or disease).

1.13.3.5. Probable duration of the incapacitation. Indicate if the incapacity predated the individual's 23rd or 21st birthday and has been continuous since diagnosis.

1.13.3.6. Based on the health care provider's professional opinion, indicate if the incapacity makes the individual incapable of self-support.

1.13.4. Depending on the circumstances involved in the dependency determination, the MTF commander recommends one of the following endorsements:

1.13.4.1. If an incapacity existed before age 23 (or 21) and continues to exist: "The patient's condition is such that it establishes medical sufficiency. This individual is incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that has existed on a continuous basis since before the individual's 23rd (21st) birthday and will be resolved within (estimate of years) years. If incapacity will not be resolved than conclude prior sentence with "...and will not be resolved in the foreseeable future."

1.13.4.2. If there is no incapacitating illness or/disease, "The patient's condition is such that it doesn't establish medical sufficiency."

1.13.4.3. If an incapacity exists now, but did not exist before age 23 (21): This individual is incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that exists at this time. It is our opinion that this incapacity did not exist before the individual's 23rd (21st) birthday."

1.13.5. If possible, the MTF should provide the sponsor with the completed endorsement. If the MTF can't give the completed package to the sponsor, send the sponsor to:

1.13.5.1. The Accounting and Finance Office if the commander's endorsement supports the request.

1.13.5.2. The Military Personnel Flight if the commander's endorsement does not support the request. The medical sufficiency statement that originally approved the permanent incapacitation should be filed in the Patient's medical record.