

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Coast Guard Recruiting Manual



COMDTINST M1100.2G
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and/or applicants who relinquish legal custody of a dependent(s) expressly to seek enlistment or commissioning are not eligible for enlistment or commissioning.

a. Dependents. The following are considered to be dependents:

- (1) Spouse. An applicant's spouse is a dependent gained through a lawful marriage, regardless of financial support, the spouse's gender, or, for the purposes of this Manual, the spouse's military status, unless terminated by final decree of divorce.
- (2) Child. Only the legal adoption of the child by another party ends the applicant's dependency responsibilities. An applicant's child, including an illegitimate child, is a dependent whether or not:
 - (a) A male applicant is named as the father on the birth certificate.
 - (b) The applicant has transferred custody of the child to a third party.
 - (c) The applicant is providing financial support for the child.
- (3) Unborn child. The unborn child of a married applicant's wife in her third trimester of the pregnancy is a dependent – for example, an applicant whose wife is pregnant with twins and has one other dependent child would have four dependents. The unborn child (third trimester of the pregnancy) of an unmarried applicant, who admits to being the mother/father or for whom a legal/medical determination has been rendered, is a dependent.
- (4) Stepchild. An applicant's stepchild, of whom the spouse has physical custody for more than 50 percent of the time, is a dependent.
- (5) Others Provided Financial Support. Aside from a spouse, children, and stepchildren, dependency is determined by whether the applicant is providing financial support to the "dependent," for example, a parent, ward, etc.

b. Dependent Criteria. Table 4-6 below includes the dependency requirements for enlistment or commissioning. The Reserve requirements differ from the active duty requirements, most obviously in the number of authorized dependents, due to the customary part-time nature of the job. However, all members of the Coast Guard Reserve are subject to mobilization through either voluntary or involuntary recall. Waivers for excess dependents may be considered based on the needs of the Service. All Coast Guard Reserve or those eligible for a Temporary Regular commission who have sole or primary legal or physical custody of dependents must provide a dependent care plan with a special power of attorney to provide for the care of children in the absence of the primary custodian. Dependent care plans must be

approved by CG RC-acc.

Table 4-6 – Basic Dependency Criteria

IF THE PERSON IS:	THEN THAT PERSON:
A Prior-Service Applicant with Dependents, Previously Separated by Reason of Dependency Hardship or Unavailability for Unrestricted Worldwide Assignment Due to Dependent Issues	MAY APPLY – If the hardship or reason for separation or discharge no longer exists, and applicant meets the applicable dependency requirements.
Without Dependents	MAY APPLY
Unmarried with Sole or Primary Legal or Physical Custody of Dependent(s)	MAY NOT APPLY – However, applicant is eligible for the Coast Guard Reserve if the applicant provides notarized, satisfactory documentation of a dependent care plan. CG RC-acc must approve dependent care plan.
An Active Duty Coast Guard Petty Officer, Unmarried with Sole or Primary Legal or Physical Custody of Dependent(s) Applying for Temporary Commission Programs	MAY APPLY – If E-5 or above, with a minimum of four years of active military service (excluding any active duty for training) and at least two years of Coast Guard active duty service.
Applying for ANY Reserve Program	MAY APPLY – If applicant has no more than seven dependents.
Unmarried without Sole Custody OR Single or Married with Joint Custody (without Primary Legal or Physical Custody of Dependents)	MAY APPLY – If the number of dependents does not exceed three, including spouse.
Married with a Coast Guard Active Duty Spouse and Two other Dependents	MAY APPLY – If enlisting in pay grade E-4 or above. OR If spouse is in pay grade E-4 or above.

- c. Dual Military Obligations. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve applicants with dependents, whose spouse is currently on active duty or is a Reserve must provide satisfactory documentation of a valid dependent care plan with a special power of attorney to provide for the care of children in the absence of the primary custodian.
- d. Financial Responsibility. Every applicant must be in good financial standing. All