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Household composition determines the household size. It also affects whose income and assets to count, income standards and eligibility, and the MinnesotaCare premium amount.

Although household composition rules vary by program, all programs consider the parental and marital relationships of people who live together in determining who must be considered in the household.

Parental relationships exist between parents and their biological or adoptive children. See the program specific sections for the maximum ages at which children are included in their parents' household.

Children under age 18 who would otherwise be included in their parents' household may be excluded if they are emancipated minors. To be considered emancipated, a person under age 18 must be married or formerly married, serving in the armed forces, or emancipated by court order. In practice, court-ordered emancipation is rare in Minnesota.

Marital relationships exist between 2 people in a marriage legally recognized in Minnesota.

Some programs consider legal guardianship in determining household composition. A legal guardian is a person who has been court-appointed or accepted as a guardian under Minnesota statute. Generally, a legal guardian is appointed when parental rights have been terminated or a child's parents have died. It is not the same as a legal custodian, who is a person granted legal custody of a minor child by the court but who does not have legal guardianship. Request copies of guardianship papers if you are uncertain of a non-parent caregiver's legal status.

Some programs consider sibling relationships in determining household composition. Consider full or half-siblings to have a sibling relationship. Also consider stepsiblings for MinnesotaCare.

In some cases people who do not have coverage under the program are included in the household size. MA and GAMC determine eligibility on an individual basis and allow people to request coverage for some household members and not others. MinnesotaCare requires certain people to be included in the household size but may exclude people who don't meet specific eligibility requirements from coverage.

See the following sections:

- §0908.03            Determining MinnesotaCare Household Size.
- §0908.03.03        Dependent Sibling Requirements.
- §0908.05            Determining MA/GAMC Household Size.
- §0908.09            Who Must Be Excluded From the Household.
- §0908.11            All or Nothing Rule.