



Massachusetts Public Employees Fund

Vision and Dental Health Plans

Residential Stepchild Verification Form (Form RS-1)

The Massachusetts Public Employees Fund (the "Fund") provides coverage for dependent children through the last day of the month during which the child turns 19, or through the last day of the month in which they turn 26 if enrolled as a full-time student. The Fund defines the term "child" (or "children") to "include any natural child, **residential stepchild**, legally adopted child or child for whom the Fund member has obtained legal custody and with whom the Fund member maintains a parent/child relationship and for whom the Fund member provides regular financial support."

The Fund will provide coverage to a Fund member's **residential stepchild** if all of the following criteria are met:

- 1) The Fund member is legally married to the parent of the stepchild; **and**
- 2) The stepchild resides in the Fund member's household (but may be temporarily away from home while attending school); **and**
- 3) The stepchild is unmarried; **and**
- 4) The Fund member is entitled to claim the child as a dependent for federal income tax purposes because the child lives in the member's home (as supported by either the Fund member's most recent federal tax return or a valid court order).

All Fund members seeking coverage for residential stepchildren must submit to the MPE Fund office:

- A copy of your certified marriage certificate; and
- A copy of each child's birth certificate; and
- A copy of valid court documentation which establishes your spouse has been granted **sole, physical custody** of the child(ren).*

***If you do not have legal documentation which establishes custody, you must submit a letter from the child's school which indicates the residential address of the child (or a copy of a driver's license, if available) and a transcript of your federal tax return for the most recent year. This transcript must be obtained by the IRS directly then submitted to the Fund. You may obtain a transcript by completing the IRS Form 4506-T-EZ or going online to <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>. (If you do not have a document that establishes custody and are unable to provide the most recent tax return because you have married your stepchild's parent in the current tax year or you have not yet filed a return, you must contact the MPE Fund office).**

Name of Child:

Date of Birth:

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that the above-named children meet the definition of residential stepchildren, as defined by the Fund above. I understand the Fund reserves the right to request additional documentation to support this information. I also understand that if any of the above-named children are found to not qualify as a residential stepchild that I may be required by the Fund to repay any and all overpayments paid by the Fund on their behalf.

Name of Fund Member

Social Security Number or Subscriber ID

Signature of Fund Member

Date

Important Note: It is the responsibility of the Fund member to notify the MPE Fund office if the child no longer meets the requirements of a residential stepchild, as defined above. If any act or omission by the Fund member results in the MPE Fund providing benefits on behalf of any individual who is not entitled to such benefits under the terms of the Plan, the Fund member shall be liable to the Fund for any such overpayments plus interest, and for any costs and attorney's fees incurred by the Fund in connection with any legal proceeding undertaken by the Fund or the Trustees to recover such overpayment.