

1 specifically recognizing the foster child relationship, and (iv) if at the
2 time a claim is incurred, the foster child relationship, as identified by
3 the employee, continues to exist. Children placed in a home by a
4 welfare agency which obtains control of, and provides for maintenance
5 of, the child(ren), are not eligible participants.

6 A blood relative of the employee is also covered by this section if
7 (i) the blood relative is living in a regular parent-child relationship
8 with the expectation that the employee/spouse will continue to rear the
9 child into adulthood, (ii) at the time of enrollment, or at the time a
10 dependent-child relationship is established, whichever occurs first, the
11 employee/spouse applies for coverage of such child and submits
12 evidence of a document executed by the employee/spouse and
13 providing that the employee/spouse agrees to be responsible for the
14 support and maintenance of such child and for health care costs of
15 such child incurred pursuant to Plan coverage, (iii) the Claims
16 Processor accepts the dependent child as a participant through a
17 separate written document identifying the dependent child by name
18 and specifically recognizing the parent-child relationship, and (iv) at
19 the time a claim is incurred, the parent-child relationship, as identified
20 by the employee/spouse, continues to exist.

21 Coverage may be extended beyond the 19th birthday under the
22 following conditions:

- 23 a. If the dependent is a full-time student, between the ages of 19
24 and 26, who is pursuing a course of study that represents at least
25 the normal workload of a full-time student at a school or college
26 accredited by the state of jurisdiction.
- 27 b. The dependent is physically or mentally incapacitated to the
28 extent that he or she is incapable of earning a living and (i) such
29 handicap developed or began to develop before the dependent's
30 19th birthday, or (ii) such handicap developed or began to
31 develop before the dependent's 26th birthday if the dependent
32 was covered by the Plan in accordance with G.S. 135-40.1(3)a.

33 Dependent children of firemen, rescue squad workers, and
34 members of the national guard are subject to the same terms and
35 conditions as are other dependent children covered by this
36 subdivision."

37 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.