

Table 2: Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative

You must start with Table 1. (To claim a qualifying relative dependent, you must first meet the Dependent Taxpayer, Joint Return and Citizen or Resident Tests in steps 1-4 of Table 1)

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

step 1	Is the person your qualifying child or the qualifying child of any other taxpayer? A child isn't the qualifying child of any other taxpayer if the child's parent (or any other person for whom the child is defined as a qualifying child) isn't required to file a U.S. income tax return or files an income tax return only to get a refund of income tax withheld.	If YES , the person isn't a qualifying relative. (See Qualifying Child Interview Tips.) If NO , go to Step 2.
step 2	Was the person your son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, or a descendant of any of them (i.e., your grandchild)? OR Was the person your brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, or a son or daughter of any of them? OR Was the person your father, mother, or an ancestor or sibling of either of them? OR Was the person your stepbrother, stepsister, stepfather, stepmother, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law? ¹	If NO , go to Step 3. If YES , go to Step 4. Note: The relatives listed in Step 2 are considered "Relatives who don't have to live with you" Note: To enter into TaxSlayer a qualifying relative who did not live with the taxpayer more than 6 months, choose "Other reasons" from the months dropdown menu.
step 3	Was the person any other person (other than your spouse) who lived with you all year as a member of your household? ²	If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent. If YES , go to Step 4. Note: There are exceptions for kidnapped children; a child who was born or died during the year; certain temporary absences—school, vacation, medical care, etc. Divorced or separated spouse. If you obtained a final decree of divorce or separate maintenance during the year, you can't take your former spouse's exemption. This rule applies even if you provided all of your former spouse's support.
step 4	Did the person have gross income of less than \$4,050 in 2017? ³	If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent. If YES , go to Step 5.
step 5	Did you provide more than half the person's total support for the year? ⁴	If YES , you can claim this person as your qualifying relative dependent. (Use Table 3 to see if the exception for children of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart applies.) If NO , go to Step 6.

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Continued

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

step 6	Did another person provide more than half the person's total support?	If YES , you can't claim an exemption for this person. If NO , go to Step 7.
step 7	Did two or more people together provide more than half the person's total support?	If YES , go to Step 8. If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent.
step 8	Did you provide more than 10% of the person's total support for the year?	If YES , go to Step 9. If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent.
step 9	Did the other person(s) providing more than 10% of the person's total support for the year provide you with a signed statement agreeing not to claim the exemption?	If YES , you can claim this person as a dependent. You must file Form 2120 with your return. If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent.

Footnotes:

¹ Any of these relationships that were established by marriage aren't ended by death or divorce.

² A person doesn't meet this test if at any time during the year the relationship between you and that person violates local law.

³ For purposes of this test, the gross income of an individual who is permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year doesn't include income for services the individual performs at a sheltered workshop.

Gross income means all income the person received in the form of money, goods, property and services, that isn't exempt from tax. Don't include social security benefits unless the person is married filing a separate return and lived with their spouse at any time during the tax year or if 1/2 the social security benefits plus their other gross income and tax exempt interest is more than \$25,000 (\$32,000 if MFJ).

⁴ A worksheet for determining support is included at the end of this section.

See Table 3 for the exception to the support test for children of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart. If a child receives social security benefits and uses them toward his or her own support, those benefits are considered as provided by the child. Benefits provided by the state to a needy person are generally considered support provided by the state. A proposed rule on which taxpayers may choose to rely treats governmental payments made to a recipient that the recipient uses, in part, to support others as support of the others provided by the recipient, whereas any part of such payment used for the support of the recipient would constitute support of the recipient by a third party. For example, if a mother receives TANF and uses the TANF payments to support her children, the proposed regulations treat the mother as having provided that support.