

**CATEGORICAL FACTORS
ADC-RELATED
DEPRIVATION OF PARENTAL SUPPORT OR CARE
CONTINUED ABSENCE**

not be used as the deprivation factor. For example: a parent is temporarily absent due to employment in another city, but continues to provide financial support and care to the child.

When to Verify Status: When the A/R indicates that s/he is caring for a child and that the child's parent is not living in the household.

Verification: When eligibility is based upon deprivation of parental support/care due to continued absence, the local district verifies the absence of the parent and, as necessary, the relationship of the parent to the child through the applicant/recipient's written and/or oral statement including the signed application.

When parents share joint custody or are both actively involved with the child, it is determined which parent provides the child's primary home and care. The following are guidelines for joint custody cases and other instances where the child has substantial and continued contact with both parents.

If the parents reside in different school districts, where does the child attend school? Who selects the child's school?

Who assists the child with homework or school related tasks?

Are there any tuition costs related to the child's education? If so, who pays those costs?

If the child is enrolled in day care, who makes the arrangements and pays the costs?

Who is responsible for taking the child to and from school or day care?

Which parent is listed as the contact for emergencies at the child's school or day care centers?

Who arranges medical and dental care for the child?

Who initiates decisions regarding the child's future?

Who responds to emergencies involving the child (i.e., medical or law enforcement emergencies)?

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Who provides food and clothing for the child when the child visits the absent parent?

Who has visitation rights? If one parent is given visitation rights, the other parent is the custodial parent.

Who claims the child on his/her income tax may be an indicator of the primary caretaker, but the decision takes into account all the circumstances.

Does one parent pay child support to the other?

When both parents actually share equally in providing for the child, there is no deprivation due to continued absence.

NOTE: If only one parent is applying, the child is included in that parent's household. If both parents apply as separate households, the child is included in the household which results in the most advantageous budgeting for the child.

Documentation:

Sufficient to establish an audit trail.

The A/R's statement(s) are acceptable unless there is reason to doubt their validity. In such instances the following documentation should be pursued:

- the address of the absent parent (when obtainable), name and address of person or organization providing information, and date obtained;