

## Railroad Retirement Board

## § 222.56

compensation as wages under that Act), is considered dependent on the employee during the employee's lifetime only if the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b), and either (c) or (d) of this section are met:

(a) The child is adopted in the United States;

(b) The child began living with the employee before the child attained age 18;

(c) The child is living with the employee in the United States and received at least one-half of his or her support from the employee for the year before the month in which—

(1) The employee could become entitled to a social security benefit as described above; or

(2) The employee becomes entitled to a period of disability which continues until he or she could become entitled to a social security benefit as described above.

(d) In the case of a child born within the one-year period stated in paragraph (c) of this section, at the close of such period the child must have been living with and have been receiving at least one-half of his or her support from the employee for substantially all of the period that began on the date the child was born.

(e) "Substantially all" means—

(1) The child was living with and receiving one-half support from the employee when the employee could have become entitled to a social security benefit as described above; and

(2) Any period during which the child was not living with or receiving one-half support from the employee is not more than one-half the period from the child's birth to the employee's date of entitlement or three months, whichever is less.

### **§ 222.54 When a legally adopted child is dependent—grandchild or stepgrandchild adopted after entitlement.**

If an employee legally adopts his or her grandchild or the spouse's grandchild after he could become entitled to an old age or disability benefit under the Social Security Act (treating his or her railroad compensation as wages under that Act), the grandchild is considered dependent on the employee dur-

ing the employee's lifetime only if the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b), and either (c) or (d) of this section are met:

(a) The grandchild is adopted in the United States.

(b) The grandchild began living with the employee before the grandchild attained age 18.

(c) The grandchild is living with the employee in the United States and receives at least one-half of his or her support from the employee for the year before the month in which—

(1) The employee's annuity was increased under the social security overall minimum provision by including the grandchild; or

(2) The employee could become entitled to a social security benefit as described above; or

(3) The employee becomes entitled to a period of disability which continues until he or she could become entitled to a social security benefit as described above.

(d) In the case of a grandchild born within the one-year period referred to in paragraph (c) of this section, at the close of such period the child must have been living with and have been receiving at least one-half of his or her support from the employee for substantially all of the period that began on the date the grandchild was born. "Substantially all" is defined in § 222.53.

### **§ 222.55 When a stepchild is dependent.**

An employee's stepchild, as described in § 222.35, is considered dependent on the employee if the stepchild receiving at least one-half of his or her support from the employee at one of the times shown in § 222.51.

[54 FR 42949, Oct. 19, 1989, as amended at 62 FR 47138, Sept. 8, 1997]

### **§ 222.56 When a grandchild or stepgrandchild is dependent.**

An employee's grandchild or stepgrandchild, as described in § 222.36, is considered dependent on the employee if the requirements in both paragraphs (a) and (b), or paragraph (c) of this section are met:

(a) The grandchild or stepgrandchild was living with the employee before

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the grandchild or stepgrandchild attained age 18.

(b) The grandchild or stepgrandchild is living with the employee in the United States and receives at least one-half of his or her support from the employee for the year before the month in which—

(1) The employee could become entitled to an age and service or disability annuity under the Social Security Act (treating his or her railroad compensation as wages under that Act); or

(2) The employee dies; or

(3) The employee becomes entitled to a period of disability that lasts until he or she could become entitled to a social security benefit as described above or until he or she dies.

(c) In the case of a grandchild or stepgrandchild born within the one-year period referred to in paragraph (b) of this section, at the close of such period the child must have been living with and receiving at least one-half of his or her support from the employee for substantially all of the period that began on the date the grandchild or stepgrandchild was born. “Substantially all” is defined in § 222.53.

### § 222.57 When an equitably adopted child is dependent.

An employee's equitably adopted child, as defined in § 222.34, is considered dependent upon the employee if the employee was either living with or contributing to the support of the child at the time of his or her death. If the equitable adoption is found to have occurred after the employee could have become entitled to an old age or disability benefit under the Social Security Act (treating his or her railroad compensation as wages under that Act), the child is not considered dependent on the employee during the employee's lifetime. If the equitable adoption took place before such time, the child is dependent on the employee if the employee was living with or contributing to the support of the child at one of the times shown in § 222.51.

### § 222.58 When a child is living with an employee.

A child is living with the employee if the child normally lives in the same household with the employee and the

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employee has parental control and authority over the child's activities. The child is considered to be “living with” the employee while they are living apart if they expect to live together again after a temporary separation. A temporary separation may include the employee's absence because of working away from home or hospitalization. However, the employee must have parental control and authority over the child during the period of temporary separation. A child who is in active military service or in prison is not “living with” the employee, since the employee does not have parental control over the child.

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