

Section 125 Cafeteria Plan Guidelines & Qualifying Events

A Cafeteria plan enables you to save money by using pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible group insurance premiums sponsored and offered by your employer. Enrollment is automatic unless you decline this benefit. Elections made during annual enrollment will become effective on the plan effective date and will remain in effect during the entire plan year. Mid-plan year changes in benefit elections can occur only if you experience a qualifying event. You must present proof of a qualifying event to your Human Resource office within 31 days of your qualifying event and meet with your HR office to complete and sign the necessary paperwork in order to make a benefit election change. **Benefit changes must be consistent with the qualifying event.**

CHANGES IN STATUS (CIS):	QUALIFYING EVENTS
Marital Status	A change in marital status includes marriage, death of a spouse, divorce or annulment (legal separation is not recognized in all states).
Change in Number of Tax Dependents	A change in number of dependents includes the following: birth, adoption and placement for adoption. You can add existing dependents not previously enrolled whenever a dependent gains eligibility as a result of a valid change in status event.
Change in Status of Employment Affecting Coverage Eligibility	Change in employment status of the employee, or a spouse or dependent of the employee, that affects the individual's eligibility under an employer's plan includes commencement or termination of employment.
Gain/Loss of Dependents' Eligibility Status	An event that causes an employee's dependent to satisfy or cease to satisfy coverage requirements under an employer's plan may include change in age, student, marital, employment or tax dependent status.
Judgment/Decree/Order	If a judgment, decree, or order from a divorce, annulment or change in legal custody requires that you provide accident or health coverage for your dependent child (including a foster child who is your dependent), you may change your election to provide coverage for the dependent child. If the order requires that another individual (including your spouse and former spouse) covers the dependent child and provides coverage under that individual's plan, you may change your election to revoke coverage only for that dependent child and only if the other individual actually provides the coverage.
Eligibility for Government Programs	Gain or loss of Medicare/Medicaid coverage may trigger a permitted election change.