

.02 Optional CA Participants

A nonparent [specified relative](#) (NPSR) may choose to be in the CA case when it is to the participant's advantage or at their request.

NOTE [NA Categorical Eligibility](#) must be reviewed for NPSR CA child only cases.

More than one NPSR may be living with dependent children who are siblings. When this is the case, only one NPSR may be keyed IN in the PT field on [SEPA](#). (See Example [Optional CA Participants1](#))

More than one NPSR may be living with dependent children who are not related. In this situation, it is to the participants' advantage to create separate [AZTECS](#) cases. (See Example [Optional CA Participants 2](#))

(See [Income and Budgeting](#) and [CA Special Considerations](#) for budgeting procedures)

When a parent and an NPSR are living in the home, only the parent may participate in the CA case. Key the parent IN and the NPSR as OU in the PT field on SEPA.

EXCEPTION

Both the parent and the nonparent may choose to participate in the CA case only when the following are applying for CA benefits:

- A parent who is determined to be a [dependent child](#).
- A parent and nonparent with another child in common who is deprived because of unemployment or underemployment. (See [TPEP](#))
- A parent (18 and over) who is prevented from functioning as the caretaker relative because of a verified physical or mental condition. (See [Deprivation](#))

Key both participants IN in the PT field on SEPA.

When the dependent child's [parent\(g\)](#) is out of the home, a stepparent may apply for CA for the child. When this occurs, the stepparent may be an optional participant. When the [stepparent](#) chooses NOT to be included in the CA budgetary unit, key OU in the PT field on SEPA.

When the inclusion of an optional CA participant results in a denial, closure, or benefit decrease for the CA budgetary unit, complete the following:

- Determine the eligibility with the optional CA participant removed from the CA budgetary unit.
- Inform the PI of the results, and allow the PI to decide whether to include the optional CA participant in the CA budgetary unit.
- Document CADO and the [case file\(g\)](#).