

## .01 Mandatory FS Participants

Certain persons living with an **FS** participant **MUST** be included in the FS budgetary unit when determining eligibility. Key the IN Participation Code in the PT field on **SEPA** for mandatory FS participants.

### EXCEPTION

A mandatory participant may be disqualified. When this is the case, see [Disqualified FS Participants](#) for the applicable Participation Code to key in the PT field on SEPA.

Consider the following as mandatory FS participants:

- A participant living alone.
- A participant and their spouse, when living together. The marriage may be legal or recognized as [common law](#).

Consider the following participants married for the FS program:

- Those who present themselves as husband and wife, or present themselves as married to their friends, neighbors, and the community.
- Participants who use the same name, or sign a contract (e.g., a lease or rental agreement) as husband and wife.

### WARNING

When participants are legally married, key the POS SPOUSE field on SEPA.

- Brothers and sisters (full or half). This is only when all of the siblings are under age 18, live together, and do not live with their parents.
- Participants under age 18 in the [care and control\(g\)](#) of a nonparent adult. This also applies when the participant has a child of their own living in the home.
- Parents and their children under age 22 when living together.

This includes any of the following:

- Natural Parents.

### WARNING

The relationship between a natural parent and a child is severed when an adoption is finalized. When the child is adopted by a stepparent (spouse of the child's natural parent), the relationship of the child to that parent is unchanged.

- Adoptive Parents.
- Stepparents. The stepparent relationship continues even when the natural or adoptive parent is absent for any reason (e.g., deceased, divorced).

Consider the child a mandatory FS participant through the month of their 22nd birthday when living with their parent. This may include the spouse and children of the married spouse (when the spouse is under age 22).

### WARNING

DO NOT DENY a participant under age 22 who lives with their parent and applies for FS. Give the participant the opportunity to apply for ALL mandatory FS participants. Request all necessary information from the participant.

- Participants who normally buy and cook their food together regardless of their relationship. (See Residents of Institutions-FS and Budgetary Unit Participants Who are Away Temporarily or Reside Away from Home)

### EXCEPTION

The following participants may buy and cook food with others and be a separate FS budgetary unit:

- Disabled participants who are 60 or over and their spouse, when they meet the requirements in [Optional elderly participants](#).
- Disabled participants under 60 who live with a [live-in attendant](#) who is not a mandatory FS participant.

- Participants who live in the home and receive more than half of their meals in the home.

Key the IN Participation Code in the PT field on SEPA for the following persons when participation IS requested by others in the FS budgetary unit:

- Individuals who are paying for lodging and meals. (See [Boarders](#))
- [Foster Care children](#) under age 18, or adults, placed with the participant by an authorized agency when the FS budgetary unit chooses to include the foster child or adult in the FS budgetary unit.

NOTE Persons meeting either condition cannot have their own FS case.

When participation IS NOT requested, key OU in the PT field.

**EXCEPTION**

When the FS budgetary unit does not choose to include the foster care child or adult in the budgetary unit, consider the foster child or adult as a boarder. This applies even when the foster individual is related to the participants.