

GUIDELINES ON THE DEFINITION OF FAMILY FOR RED CROSS ASSISTANCE AND THE FAMILY GIFT PROGRAM

Below are some guidelines to help you define what constitutes a family according to existing Red Cross policy. The American Red Cross recognizes that families come in many different forms. Rather than adhering to a strict definition of family composition, we are using a broad and inclusive definition of family. In doing so, we recognize traditional married families, as well as the committed relationships and domestic partnerships of many couples, including same gender couples, who have been living together or who can demonstrate financial interdependence. Accordingly, these broadly defined families are eligible for Red Cross assistance.

Any one of the following may be used as evidence of a relationship. Please note that this list is not inclusive:

1. Joint ownership of a home
 2. Joint rental agreement/lease
 3. Joint bank account or credit cards
 4. Joint ownership or holding of investments
 5. Joint ownership or lease of a motor vehicle
 6. Utility bill w/both names appearing
 7. Joint obligation on a loan
 8. Joint renters' or homeowner's insurance policy
 9. Joint responsibility for childcare (eg. school documents, guardianship)
 10. Designated beneficiary under the deceased life insurance policy, retirement benefits account or will of executor of each other's will or primary beneficiary of the other's will
 11. An affidavit by a creditor able to testify to partners' financial interdependence
 12. Registration with a state or local domestic partnership registry or certification of a union celebrated overseas
 13. Designation of one partner as the representative payee for the other's government benefits
 14. Healthcare power of attorney
 15. Evidence of receiving domestic partner benefits from an employer
 16. General power of attorney for the deceased
- ◆ Registered domestic partnership is not required. It is only one way to prove a relationship.
 - ◆ For Family Service Staff at Service Centers, *please refer all Family Gift Program applicants to the ICT immediately*. ICT will use the above guidelines to help the applicant prove their relationship with the lost loved one.
 - ◆ **Do NOT deny service and assistance for lack of verification. See your supervisor. Supervisors MUST contact their officer before denying ANY assistance.**