

GME Qualifying Life Change

Marriage, Common-Law, Civil Union and Domestic Partner

The following guide outlines permissible changes to benefit elections and how to make them when an employee gains a spouse or partner through marriage, common-law, civil union or domestic partnership.

Permissible Changes

When entering into a marriage or partnership, you can make certain changes to your benefit elections. These changes must be made within **31 days** from the date of the life change and must be consistent with gaining a spouse/partner, and correspond with a gain of eligibility. New elections will **be effective the first of the month** following the marriage/partnership.

Plan change eligibility:

- **CU Health Plans medical, dental, vision:** changes permissible
- **Flexible Spending Accounts (Health Care FSA & Dependent Care FSA):** limited changes

Plan resources

- [GME Rates \(PDF\)](#)
- [GME Benefits Website](#)

CU Health Plans: medical, dental, vision

Enrollment:

- **Employee:** If the employee currently does not have coverage with CU, they can enroll themselves, provided they enroll the new spouse/partner.
- **Spouse/partner:** If the employee is enrolled/enrolling, they can enroll the new spouse/partner.
- **Children:** If the employee is enrolled/enrolling and enrolling the new spouse/partner, they can also enroll their dependent children and/or spouse/partner's children.

Change plans: The employee and their dependents can switch plans.

Cancellation: The employee may cancel CU coverage with proof of gain of group coverage under another plan or wait until the next Open Enrollment.

Imputed income

Tax dependency reminder: Employee will be subject to [imputed income](#) (taxable income) for the amount CU contributes towards health premiums for partners and partner's children if they do not qualify as tax dependents. If the domestic partner is a tax dependent, the employee must submit a [Tax Certification of Dependency for Tax Treatment of Medical Benefits \(PDF\)](#).

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)

Health Care Flexible Spending Account HCFSA

- The employee can enroll or increase their contributions to accommodate newly eligible tax dependents and any other tax dependents who were not previously covered.
- The employee may decrease their contributions or cancel their enrollment if they gain eligibility under another plan. In no event can a new election be reduced to an amount that is less than the expenses incurred prior to the new election date.
- The effective date is the first of the month following the receipt of Benefits Enrollment/Change Form.

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account DCFSA

The employee can enroll or increase their contributions to accommodate newly eligible tax dependents and any other tax dependents who were not previously covered. The employee can decrease their contributions or cancel their enrollment if spouse/partner is not employed or covered under other DCFSA.

How to Make Changes

You have **31 days** from the date of marriage/partnership to make changes by submitting the required documentation to Employee Services. If you have any questions, please contact a **benefits professional at 303-860-4200, option 3**.

How to add a newly eligible spouse/partner and dependent child(ren)

1. **Submit** the [Benefits Enrollment/Change Form GME \(PDF\)](#).
2. **Submit** [Dependent Eligibility Verification \(DEV\)](#) documentation for newly eligible spouse/partner and child(ren), if dependents are not already verified. If documentation is not received, the dependent(s) will not be enrolled, and the employee will have to wait until the next Open Enrollment.

Eligible dependents and the required documentation:

- **Spouse:** Most recent Federal Tax return form showing a married filing status. Send the first and second page (the signed signature page) **or** the first page and Certificate of Electronic filing **OR** marriage certificate **and** one secondary verification document (see next section)
- **Common law spouse:** [CU Affidavit of Common Law \(PDF\)](#) **AND** one secondary verification document (see next section)
- **Civil union partner:** Civil union certificate **AND** one secondary verification document (see next section)
- **Domestic partner:** [CU Affidavit of Domestic Partnership \(PDF\)](#) **AND** two secondary verification documents (see next section)
- **Child under age 27:** Birth or adoption certificate **OR** court documents signed by a judge for parental responsibility or qualified medical support order
- **Child with a disability over age 27:** Birth or adoption certificate **AND** a medical certificate of disability or notice of determination from the Social Security Administration

Secondary verification documents:

Documents (must be dated within the last 60 days)

- Designation of dependent as primary beneficiary of the employee's life insurance or retirement benefits.
- Joint ownership of residence or other real estate.
- Lease agreement on home or another property listing both names.
- Joint ownership of a motor vehicle.
- Utility bill listing the employee and dependent on the bill or two separate utility bills, one listing the employee and one listing the dependent at the same address.

How to cancel coverage for employee, spouse/partner and dependent child(ren)

1. **Submit** the [Benefits Enrollment/Change Form GME \(PDF\)](#)
2. **Submit** a letter or other document from dependent's employer or insurer stating:
 - The individuals who gained group coverage (by name).
 - The effective date of group coverage.
 - The types of plans that were gained, specifically medical, dental and/or vision.

Submission instructions

- Submission instructions for all documentation are found on the *Benefits Enrollment/Change Form*.
- You can check the *Benefits Summary* in your [employee portal](#) to verify enrollment accuracy after forms are processed.
- If you have further questions, contact a benefits professional at **303-860-4200, option 3**.

Payroll Deductions

If you are canceling or removing dependent coverage and expect a reduction in your cost of monthly premiums, you must submit all documentation by the 10th of the month in which the change would take effect. If documentation is received after the 10th of the month, premium adjustments will be reflected in the next payroll cycle.

Questions?

Contact a benefits professional via email at benefits@cu.edu or call during business hours at **303-860-4200 option 3**.

Definitions

Consistency Rule: Under the Consistency Rule, the election change is on account of and corresponds with the Qualifying Life Change that affects eligibility for coverage under an employer's plan. Changes to benefit plans must be consistent with the Qualifying Life Change and correspond with a gain or loss of eligibility for coverage.

Gain of eligibility of group coverage: When canceling CU coverage, CU requires proof that employee and/or dependents have or will have coverage. We require a letter or other document from dependent's employer or insurer stating:

- The individuals that gained group coverage (by name).
- The effective date of group coverage.
- The types of plans that were gained, specifically medical, dental and/or vision.