A dependent child is defined as a child of an employee who is under the age of 26. Employers do not face a penalty under the Affordable Care Act if they do not offer coverage to the spouse of a full-time employee.

**Affordability is determined by reference to the taxpayer’s household income (i.e., the employee’s required contribution for self-only coverage should not exceed 9.69% in 2016). Since employers generally do not know the worker’s household income, to determine if an employer may be subject to a penalty, the employer can measure 9.5% against three separate safe harbor amounts (the worker’s Form W-2 wages, the worker’s hourly rate of pay as of the first day of the coverage period, or the federal poverty line for a single individual). Note that a worker’s and the worker’s dependents’ eligibility for premium tax credits or cost-sharing subsidies are based on family income; not the safe harbor amounts.