

Your status as an independent student for financial aid purposes was based upon your answer to questions regarding dependency on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA instructions notify you that the financial aid administrator at your school may require proof of your status. In order to complete the financial aid process, please check the status that best represents your situation and submit the required documentation. **Your aid cannot be processed until all required documentation has been received and evaluated.**

Name _____ Last Four of SSN or Student ID Number _____

STATUS	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> No living parents: You had no living parent (biological or adoptive) when you were age 13 or older, even if you are now adopted.	A student who was an orphan (both her parents were dead when 13 or older is <u>independent even if she was subsequently adopted.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care: You were in foster care for any length of time when you were age 13 or older, even if you are no longer in foster care as of today.	Students who indicate that they were in foster care since turning 13, the following are examples of documents that could attest the student's former foster youth status: a copy of a court order; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the statement of a state or county child welfare agency; • the statement of a private provider agency that delivers child welfare services; or • the statement from an attorney, guardian ad litem, or court-appointed special advocate documenting the person's relationship to the student as well as the latter's foster youth status.
<input type="checkbox"/> Dependent/Ward of the Court: You were a dependent/ <u>ward of the court</u> when you were age 13 or older, even if you are no longer a dependent/ward of the court as of today.	Provide legal documentation (court documents) or documentation from the Department of Human Services in your state of legal residence confirming you were a dependent or ward of the court at age 13 or older.
<input type="checkbox"/> Emancipated Minor: You are or were an emancipated minor as <u>determined by a court</u> in your state of legal residence prior to reaching the age of being an adult in your state.	Provide a copy of a court's decision documenting you are an emancipated minor from the state of your legal residence.
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardianship: You are or were in legal guardianship as <u>determined by a court</u> in your state of legal residence prior to reaching the age of being an adult in your state.	Provide a copy of a court's decision documenting you are in legal guardianship from the state of your legal residence.

All letters submitted from social services agencies should be on letterhead and signed.

Student signature _____ Date _____