



Dependency Status Clarification Form

You reported on your FAFSA that you were an independent student based on one of the scenarios below. You must complete this form and submit it to the Office of Student Financial Aid before we can continue processing your financial aid. **What you should do:**

1. Complete the applicable section of the Dependency Status form; **and**
2. Submit corresponding required documentation

Student Information:

Student Name (Please Print): _____

WC ID # _____ Academic Year: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address: _____

Section A: Orphan/Ward of the Court/Foster Care

At any time **since you turned age 13**, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? *If yes, please specify*

- ☐ You had no living parent, even if you are now adopted.
- o **Required:** submit a copy of the death certificate or obituary for **both** parents
- ☐ You were in foster care, even if you are no longer in foster care today.
- o **Required:** attach **official** documentation verifying you are/were in foster care
- ☐ You were a dependent or ward of the court, even if you are no longer a dependent or ward of the court today.
- o **Required:** attach **official** documentation verifying you are/were a dependent or ward of the court
- For Title IV Federal aid purpose, someone who is incarcerated is not considered a ward of the court.

Section B: Legal Guardianship

Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? *If yes, please specify:*

- ☐ I have attached a copy of the court's decision that, **as of today**, I am in legal guardianship.
- ☐ I have attached a copy of the court's decision that I was in a legal guardianship **immediately before I reached the age of being an adult in my state.**

Note: Legal guardianship does not include your parents, even if they were appointed by a court to be your guardians. You are also not considered a legal guardian yourself.

- ☐ I am in legal **custody** of someone other than my biological parents. *For Title IV Federal aid purposes, legal **custody** is not the same as **legal guardianship**.*

Note: If you are in legal custody of someone other than your parents, but you have contact with your parents, you must add your biological parent(s) information to the FAFSA.

Section C: Emancipated Minor

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? *If yes, please specify:*

- ☐ I have attached a copy of the court's decision that **as of today**, I am an emancipated minor.
- ☐ I have attached a copy of the court's decision that I was an emancipated minor **immediately before I reached the age of being an adult in my state**.

Section D: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- ☐ At any time, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? *If yes, please provide:*
 - Provide **current** documentation confirming you are homeless or at risk of being homeless from:
 - McKinney-Vento School District Liaison
- ☐ At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? *If yes, please provide:*
 - Provide **current** documentation confirming you are homeless or at risk of being homeless from:
 - A director or designee of the HUD-funded shelter
- ☐ At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basis center or transitional living program determine that you were an accompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? *If yes, please provide:*
 - Provide **current** documentation confirming you are homeless or at risk of being homeless from:
 - A director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter

Section E: None of the Above

- ☐ None of the above sections apply to me. *You will need to update the dependency status of your FAFSA, add your biological parent(s) information and resubmit your FAFSA application.*

Certification and Signatures

All of the information provided by me on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to give proof of the information that I have given on this form.

Student Signature

Date