

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SSN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

You indicated you meet the criteria to be considered an INDEPENDENT student based on being:

- 1. In Foster Care**
  - You were in foster care at any time since you turned age 13, even if you are no longer in foster care as of the date you signed the FAFSA. Attach documentation that you were in foster care and/or participated in the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP).
  
- 2. In Legal Guardianship**
  - Provide a copy of a court's decision that as of the date you signed the FAFSA you are in legal guardianship.
  - Provide a copy of a court's decision that you were in legal guardianship immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. NOTE: The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.
  
- 3. Orphan**
  - Provide a copy of the death certificate of both parents, do not check this box if one parent is deceased and the whereabouts of your other parent is unknown.
  
- 4. Ward or Dependent of the Court**

*\* A student is a ward of the court if it has assumed legal custody of him/her. In some states the court may impose its authority over a juvenile who remains in the legal custody of his/her parents; such a student is not a ward of the court. Also, incarceration of a student does not qualify him/her as a ward of the court.*

  - Attach a letter from your social worker confirming that you were a dependent of the court until age 18, or a letter stating that you are a participant in the Independent Living Program (ILP), or other court documentation showing that you were removed from your home because it posed a direct threat to your well-being.
  - You were a dependent or ward of the court at any time since you turned age 13, even if you are no longer a dependent or ward of the court as of the date you signed the FAFSA. Attach documentation that you were a dependent of the court or that you were removed from your home because it posed a direct threat to your well-being.

- 5. An Emancipated Minor**
  - Provide a copy of a court’s decision that as of the date you signed the FAFSA you were an emancipated minor.
  - Provide a copy of a court’s decision that you were an emancipated minor prior to reaching the age of being an adult in your state.
  
- 6. On or after July 1, 2023, you were homeless or at risk of being homeless**
  - “Homeless” means you lacked fixed, regular and adequate housing, and you lived in shelters, motels or cars, or temporarily lived with other people because you had nowhere else to go.
  - “Unaccompanied” means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.
  - “Youth” means that you are 23 years of age or younger or you are still enrolled in high school as of the day you signed the FAFSA.
  - Attach documentation from the homeless liaison or director of the shelter/program that verified your status. Yearly verification is required.

**IF NONE OF THE ABOVE APPLY TO YOU:**

If none of the above apply to you, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

**Student Certification**

- I hereby declare that all information reported on this document is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation will be cause for denial reduction, withdrawal and/or repayment of financial aid.

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Student Signature

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Date