

We are unable to continue processing your 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) until documentation of your independent status is reviewed. Complete this form, attach copies of all requested documents and return them to the address above.

Student's Name (Last, First, MI) _____ Student ID # _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone number _____

A. Ward of the Court/Foster Care

At any time since you turned 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? ☐ YES* ☐ NO

*If you checked **YES**, please submit copies of the OFFICIAL court decision in your case and/or copies of parents' death certificates. The court must be in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.

B. Emancipated Minor

As of today, are you or were you a legally emancipated minor as determined by a court of law within your state of legal residence before you reached the age of majority in your state? ☐ YES* ☐ NO

*If you checked **YES**, please submit copies of the OFFICIAL court decision in your case. The court must be in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.

C. Legal Guardianship

As of today, are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court of law within your state of legal residence before you reached the age of majority in your state?

The definition of 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 of yourself. ☐ YES* ☐ NO

*If you checked **YES**, please submit copies of the OFFICIAL court decision in your case. The court must be in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.

If you answered **NO** to all the questions on this form you are considered a dependent student. You will need to make corrections to your 2026-2027 FAFSA to include parent information and parent signature. Be aware, your correction may be selected for verification during processing, which would require additional documentation. Delays in processing of your file will occur until a corrected FAFSA is received by our office.

E. Sign This Form:

I certify that the information reported on this form is complete and correct. I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information, I may be fined, sentenced to prison, or both.

Signature of student _____ Date _____