

Emancipation/Orphan/Ward/Foster Acceptable Documentation

Your status as an independent student for financial aid purposes was based upon your answer to questions 53, 54, or 55 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 documentation has been received and evaluated.

STATUS	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
<p>No living parents You had no living parent (biological or adoptive) when you were age 13 or older, even if you are now adopted.</p>	Provide both parents' death certificates and a copy of student's birth certificate
<p>Foster Care You were in foster care when you were age 13 or older, even if you are no longer in foster care as of today.</p>	Provide legal documentation (court documents) or a letter from the Department of Human Services in your state of legal residence. Documentation must confirm that you were in foster care at age 13 or older.
<p>Dependent/Ward of the Court You were a dependent/ward of the court when you were age 13 or older, even if you are no longer a dependent/ward of the court as of today.</p>	Provide legal documentation (court documents) or documentation from the Department of Human Services in your state of legal residence. Documentation must confirm that you were a dependent or ward of the court at age 13 or older.
<p>Emancipated Minor You are or were an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence, prior to reaching the age of being an adult in your state.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Provide a copy of a court's decision documenting you are an emancipated minor from the state of your legal residence</p>
<p>Legal Guardianship You are or were in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence, prior to reaching the age of being an adult in your state.</p>	Provide a copy of a court's decision documenting you are in legal guardianship from the state of your legal residence. Custody is not sufficient documentation.
All letters submitted from social services agencies should be on letterhead and signed. Please attach proper documentation if one of the above applies. If none of the above circumstances apply to your, please contact the financial aid office at 252-493-7339.	