

**2025–2026
Proof of Independent
Status Form**

Student Name: _____ ID # or SSN: _____

When you completed the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you answered “YES” to one of the questions below. Please check the appropriate box that applies to you and submit the required documentation.

- ☐ **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?**
Required Documentation – Death certificates of both deceased parents, or court documentation showing you were a ward of the court and when.
- ☐ **Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?**
Required Documentation – Court document from your state of legal residence where you were placed under legal guardianship of another person. You must currently be in legal guardianship or were in guardianship immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state (age 18 in Illinois).
- ☐ **Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?**
Required Documentation – Court document from your state of legal residence where you were placed under legal guardianship of another person. You must currently be in legal guardianship or were in guardianship immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state (18 in Illinois). **Please note: Court documents must state “guardianship” not “custody”.**
- ☐ **At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?**
Required Documentation – Document on letterhead stationery from either your high school or school district homeless liaison verifying this status.
- ☐ **At any time on or after July 1, 2024, 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?**
Required Documentation – Document on letterhead stationery from the director of the emergency shelter or HUD verifying this status.
- ☐ **At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?**
Required Documentation – Document on letterhead stationery from the director of the runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program verifying this status.
- ☐ **None of the above.** I have submitted a correction to my FAFSA on fafsa.ed.gov.

Student Signature - **Must be drawn and not typed.** _____

_____ Date