

Independent Status Form

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

(Your social security number is being requested because it is a unique identification number that is maintained for the purpose of verifying the correct student record is being updated, for tracking purposes and for state and federal report requirements.)

Check one of the reasons listed below by which you claim independent status for the academic school year.

____ **Orphan:** Both of your biological parents are deceased. You are considered an orphan even if you have a legal guardian or have been adopted after the age of 13.

____ **Ward of the Court/Foster Care:** (1) You are currently or were at any time, since the age of 13, in the custody of or were a dependent of the State. (2) You have been or were at any time since your 13th birthday, or are currently, in Foster Care. (Students who remain in legal custody of their parents while the court imposes its authority over them are not considered to be wards of the court.)

____ **Emancipated Minor:** as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.

____ **Legal Guardianship:** Someone other than your Parent or Step-parent have legal guardianship of you.

____ **Unaccompanied Youth who was Homeless:** To be considered an “unaccompanied and homeless youth on the FAFSA form, an individual must be a youth who is (1) unaccompanied **AND** homeless or (2) unaccompanied, self-supporting, **and** at risk of being homeless. Below are some initial terms that help define a homeless youth determination as defined in the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act. (Attach copy of McKinney-Vento certification from school or statement from other professional, i.e. counselor or homeless shelter administrator who can attest to your situation.)

"Unaccompanied" means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

"Homeless" lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing

"At Risk of being Homeless" a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular and adequate, for example a student who is being evicted or has been asked to leave their current residence and has been unable to find other housing.

"Self- Supporting" when a student pays for his or her own living expenses, which includes paying for fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

By signing this form, I certify that this information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

... ATTACH COURT DOCUMENTS OR DETERMINATION DOCUMENTS ...