



Financial Aid Office

Verification of Ward of the Court, Emancipated Minor, or Legal Guardianship

On your 2026-2027 FAFSA, you answered “yes” to question 5, which relates to your independent status. **Before the financial aid office can determine your eligibility for financial aid, you must document your status.**

Please complete the following section by checking off the statement that applies to you. Attach appropriate documentation and return to the financial aid office.

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?

- Yes**, I am an orphan or ward of the court. (Please attach copies of official complete court documentation to support your claim.)
- No**, I made a mistake on the FAFSA. I will make corrections and updates to my FAFSA including Parental information and signature.

Are you or were you an emancipated minor, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

- Yes**, I am or was an emancipated minor. (Please attach copies of official complete court documentation to support your claim.)
 - (A) You can provide a copy of a court’s decision that as of today you are an emancipated minor
 - or**
 - (B) You can provide a copy of a court’s decision that you were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state.
- No**, I made a mistake on the FAFSA. I will make corrections and updates to my FAFSA including Parental information and signature.

Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

- Yes**, I am or was in a legal guardianship. (Please attach complete copies of official court documentation to support your claim.)
 - (A) You can provide a complete copy of a court’s decision that you are in current legal guardianship **or**
 - (B) You can provide a complete 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.
- No**, I made a mistake on the FAFSA. I will make corrections and updates to my FAFSA including Parental information and signature.

****Per FAFSA: Court Documents stating “Legal Custody” is not the same as Legal Guardianship – Please contact the Office of Financial Aid if your Court Documents state “Custody”***

Certification

By signing this form, I certify that all information reported on this document is true, complete, and accurate.

Student Name _____ **Student ID** _____

Student signature _____ **Date** _____

577 Western Avenue | P.O. Box 1630 | Westfield, MA 01086-1630

Phone: (413) 579-3080 Fax 413-579-3019:

financialaid@westfield.ma.edu