Independent Status Documentation

A student may be considered independent if certain characteristics are true of the student. You indicated on the FAFSA that at least one of the following is true. (Be sure to provide the supporting documentation that applies to you.):

- At any time since you turned 13, both of your parents were deceased, you were in foster care or you were a dependent or ward of the court.
  - Submit copies of death certificates, foster care documents or court documentation for dependent or ward of the court.

- You are or were an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
  - Submit a copy of a court’s decision which states that, as of today, you are an emancipated minor.

- You are or were in a legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
  - Submit a copy of a court’s decision that states you were or are in a legal guardianship before you reached your adulthood state. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court’s decision was reached.

- Your high school or school district homeless liaison determined you to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
  - Submit official documentation from your school district homeless liaison that made the determination that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless. The determination must have been made on or after July 1, 2022.

- A director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined you to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
  - Submit official documentation from the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program that made the determination that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless. The determination must have been made on or after July 1, 2022.

- A director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determined you to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.
  - Submit official documentation from the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program that made the determination that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. The determination must have been made on or after July 1, 2022.