

2023-2024

Verification of Emancipated Minor/Legal Guardianship

Serving Richmond and Scotland Counties

INSTRUCTIONS: On the FAFSA you answered “yes” to the question, stating that you are an emancipated minor or you were a “ward” under legal guardianship. Additional information is needed for us to determine whether you meet the criteria to answer “yes” to one of these questions, thereby making you independent for financial aid purposes. Your financial aid cannot be processed until this information is received.

Please provide the documentation requested that pertains to your specific situation.

- **Emancipated Minor**

Before reaching the age of majority in my state (usually age 18) I was released from the control of my parent or guardian as determined by a court of law in the state of which I was a resident of at the time.

Note: Emancipated does NOT mean you pay for your own bills and your parents do not support you.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED: A copy of the court papers, signed by a judge, verifying your status as an emancipated minor. If you do not have court papers, you cannot be considered independent for financial aid purposes.

- **Under Legal Guardianship of Someone Other Than Parent**

Upon reaching the age of majority in my state (usually 18), someone other than my biological or adoptive parent(s) was appointed as my legal guardian by a court of law in the state of which I was a resident at the time.

Note: Legal guardianship is NOT the same as legal custody. If you were in legal custody of someone, you would answer “no” to the FAFSA question 54.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED: A copy of the court papers, signed by a judge, verifying that someone other than your parent was appointed your legal guardian. If you do not have court papers, you cannot be considered independent for financial aid purposes.