



2021-2022

Proof of Orphan/Ward of the Court/Foster Care

Serving Richmond and Scotland Counties

Student Name: _____ SSN: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
P O Box, Route, or Street City State Zip

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Your status for financial aid as an independent student is based solely on your answer to question **52** on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) regarding your status as an **Orphan or Ward of the Court or Foster Care**. Therefore, the Department of Education requires that you submit legal documentation verifying that situation. To verify your status of Orphan, Ward of the Court, or Foster Care we will require the following documentation:

I am a/an (Please check one):

Orphan

Provide a copy of both parents' death certificates and a copy of your birth certificate or a copy of one parent's death certificate and a copy of your birth certification showing only one parent's name. In order to be considered independent, your status as an orphan had to have occurred at some point since your 13th birthday.

Ward of the Court/Foster Care

Court orders or a letter from you DSS (Department of Social Services) case worker indicating that you are/were a ward of the court at some point since your 13th birthday. You can find agency's contact information at www.childwelfare.gov/nfcad

Neither an Orphan or Ward of the Court

Please complete the following items:

- Go to www.fafsa.gov to update your FAFSA, question **52**, to "NO"
- Include parental information on the FAFSA, if you have not already done so.

Certification and Signature

If you are the student, by signing this application you certify that you

- (1) will use federal and /or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,
- (2) are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- (3) do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- (4) will notify your college if you default on a federal student loan and
- (5) will not receive a Federal Pell Grant for more than one college for the same period of time.

If you are the parent or the student, by signing this application you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form. This information may include U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that **the Secretary of Education has the authority to verify information reported on this application with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.**

If you electronically sign any document related to the federal student aid programs using an FSA ID (username and password) and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____